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Israel

Three Arabs were killed and one was wounded when the IDF dispersed rioters in a village near Hebron 7 February, IDF radio reported. Earlier, a woman was killed during a clash with an IDF force north of Hebron, Jerusalem radio noted, and a 10-year old boy from Burqa' died from a bullet wound inflicted by IDF soldiers. Twelve other West Bank residents and two Gazans were injured during clashes with the IDF and other disturbances 5-7 February, according to IDF and Jerusalem radio reports. Israeli settlers responded to attacks on their cars by damaging Arab vehicles in Hebron, Jerusalem radio disclosed.

PLO

The PLO is still advising Palestinians to refrain from using weapons in their "uprising," but the Israelis should know that this will only continue for a "limited" period, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat affirmed in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo. He viewed recent PLO military operations against Israel as a "warning" that the PLO will escalate its military activities, "depending on their behavior toward our kinfolk." Regarding current diplomatic moves on the Palestinian issue, a PLO Executive Committee statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio expressed regret that "certain Arab parties" are involved in the "serious, suspect moves" aimed at "aborting or containing" the Palestinian people's achievements.

In another development, a PLO spokesman confirmed that a PLO-chartered ship will begin a cruise to "occupied Palestine" 10 February carrying 130 expelled Palestinians and 400 other "personalities" and journalists, KUNA reported. The voyage is a "political operation" aimed at supporting the uprising in the occupied territories, he said.

Syria

Murphy Visit—President Hafiz al-Asad told U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy that the Palestinian "uprising" shows the need for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace through an international peace conference away from "unilateral, separate deals," Damascus radio disclosed in a report on their 7 February meeting. Palestinian national rights must be accommodated, Al-Asad maintained, and Israel must withdraw from "all" occupied Arab land. Murphy gave Al-Asad a letter from President Reagan, the radio noted, and their talks focused on regional developments, including the implications of the Palestinian "uprising."

In a related commentary on the U.S. "ideas" conveyed by Murphy, Damascus radio said these ideas have become "more productive" with the escalation of the Palestinian resistance to Israeli occupation and failure of the Israelis to quell the uprising. However, the radio viewed the current U.S. initiative as an "unconvincing" maneuver to gain time and deflect attention from "the dilemma facing the U.S.-Israeli Camp David policy."

Jordan's AL-RA'Y warned that Washington is laying a "trap" for Damascus in its call for negotiations on the basis of "new ideas" and in having "hinted at Syrian gains in Lebanon." In Israel, an IDF radio report on Murphy's tour asserted that "recent signals from Damascus concerning Al-Asad's willingness to hold negotiations with Israel are particularly interesting." The radio linked this with reports that the Syrian leader recently told a U.S. senator of his willingness to negotiate with Israel on the Golan Heights issue at an international conference and this would be "without any connection with the Palestinian problem."

Talas in Lebanon—Defense Minister Mustafa Talas held talks with former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah in Agharta 6 February, Beirut radio reported, noting that Talas also discussed the security situation with Syrian officers in northern Lebanon. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon subsequently reported the assassination of two Syrian officers in the 'Akkar region.

UNRWA Hostages in Lebanon

UNRWA will have to "seriously consider" stopping its operations in the Sidon area and even in other parts of Lebanon if its staff cannot be guaranteed freedom of movement in carrying out their humanitarian task, UNRWA warned in a 7 February statement carried by KUNA. The warning came while two Scandinavian UNRWA employees remained captives. According to an UNRWA spokesman cited by AFP, the kidnappers are Palestinians connected with Fatah, but the abduction is believed to be have been carried out for personal rather than political motives. PLO leader 'Arafat called for the immediate release of the Scandinavians, AFP noted, and a Palestinian spokesman subsequently asserted that the kidnappers have been "cornered" and should free their hostages "very quickly."

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi jets attacked a "very large" maritime target near the Iranian coast 7 February, a military spokesman told INA. An Iranian oil tanker was set ablaze during an air raid on Iran's Khark Island oil terminal earlier the same day, Baghdad radio reported. Iraqi aircraft also struck a large maritime target during a 5 February attack, according to a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Also in the Gulf, Iranian gunboats attacked a tanker 7 February, inflicting minor damage, AFP reported. The vessel, though U.S.-owned, was registered in Liberia. Tehran radio reported that the attack was carried out by "speedboats."

In ground action, an Iraqi communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio announced that Iraqi forces repelled an Iranian offensive in the II Army Corps central sector 7 February, "wiping out" most of the attackers. Tehran radio reported a "limited but completely successful" attack in the Maymak region the same day, resulting in 300 enemy casualties. Iraqi forces also killed 190 Iranians in I Army Corps northern sector clashes, the Iraqi communique reported.

Iran

Differences between the Majlis and the Council of Guardians will henceforth be resolved by the majority vote of a special "assembly" designated for that purpose, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni ruled in a 6 February letter broadcast by Tehran radio. The assembly will consist of the "honorable theologians" of the Council in addition to President 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Chief Justice 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili, Prosecutor General Musavi Kho'iniha, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, Khomeyni's secretary Mohammad Reza Tavasoli, and the government minister concerned with the matter at issue. Ahmad Khomeyni will also participate in the assembly "so that reports of the meetings can be brought to me faster," Khomeyni added. His letter also stressed the importance of upholding the "interests" of the regime against the "American version of Islam" promoted by the "arrogant and conceited" through their "domestic and foreign agents."

Khomeyni's ruling was in response to a letter from Musavi-Ardabili, Khamene'i, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Musavi, and Ahmad Khomeyni asking the imam to confirm that he had decided to appoint an authority to resolve differences between the Majlis and the Council of Guardians. Their letter emphasized the need for "speedy action" on this issue because "at present numerous important issues are undecided."

During a 7 February Cabinet session reported by Tehran radio, Prime Minister Musavi viewed Khomeyni's latest ruling as a clear expression of concern that the Islamic Revolution must help the "oppressed" and must not turn into "American-style Islam, leaning toward capital and capitalists." A Tehran radio commentary likewise warned that if the Islamic Republic shows "laxity and hesitation" in resolving its social and economic problems, "enemies" will exploit this to preach "American-style Islam." There should no longer be any hesitation in making fundamental decisions and drafting legislation to settle unresolved economic issues, the station added.

Al-Qadhdhafi Tour

Visiting Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi concluded his talks with Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali 6 February, Tunis radio reported. A press statement on the visit transmitted by JANA declared that the two sides agreed to develop relations in order to reach integration "in all fields" as a step toward unity between the two states, and to work for Maghreb unity as a prelude to a "comprehensive Arab unity." The two sides reaffirmed a number of previous agreements in various fields, including oil and gas exploitation, and abolished visa requirements between the two countries.

Later the same day, Al-Qadhdhafi flew to Algeria where he was received by President Chadli Bendjedid, Algiers radio reported. The meeting was held within the framework of the "intensive" efforts toward the building of Maghreb unity, the radio noted. The two leaders also held a meeting with SDAR President Mohamed Abdelaziz.

Sudan

The Council of Ministers has decided to halt dialogue with the SPLM/SPLA because of the latter's continuing military operations, including the capture of Kapoeta, a government spokesman announced 7 February in a statement reported by SUNA. The Sudanese Air Force is continuing raids on rebel-held areas in order to assist the recapture of Kapoeta, he noted. The SPLA's clandestine radio announced earlier that its forces downed a Sudanese jet fighter over Juba Airport 4 February with a SAM missile.

In another development, the Khartoum paper AL-SUDAN claimed that the Ethiopian Air Force killed one Sudanese and wounded nine in an air raid on a village in the eastern region of Kassala, according to SUNA.

Afghanistan

President Najibullah met with UN envoy Diego Cordovez 7 February, the third such meeting during the UN official's current shuttle tour between Kabul and Islamabad in preparation for the next round of Geneva talks, Kabul radio reported. The two discussed "all related issues" affecting the attainment of a political settlement of the Afghan situation and the need to create an "atmosphere of understanding" prior to the Geneva talks, the radio added.

Earlier, Cordovez held an "unannounced" meeting with rebel leader Yunis Khalis in Peshawar, according to AFP. Following talks described as "cordial," Cordovez indicated that the rebels were "sticking strongly" to their demand for recognition as a "real party" in the dispute, but added that "we are moving in the same direction."

Palestinian Affairs

Radio Broadcasts 'Comprehensive Strike' Call

JN051700 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1605 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Unattributed "Call No 6"; date and place not given]

[Text] Call, call, call—no voice shall rise above that of the uprising, call No 6. This call states: Masses of our people, uprising multitudes in the camps, rural areas, and cities; you who by your will and determination have triumphed over the Zionist enemy policy and made your resounding voice heard throughout the world; our masses who have snatched the initiative from the hands of the Tel Aviv rulers and placed them in a position of political siege and international condemnation; you who by your struggle every day and every hour are paving the road to victory, the defeat of the enemy, and the establishment of an independent national state; O our masses: At this particular time U.S. imperialism, in an effort to rescue the Zionist enemy from its inevitable defeat and Zionism from its strangulating crisis and international isolation, continues to hatch plots, using its collaborators in the region to undermine the gains of the uprising by proposing capitulatory settlement plans. This is highlighted in Mubarak's plan and his contacts in the United States. This is also evidenced in the U.S. State Department's attempts to project some local figures.

In the name of our people who have made precious sacrifices as represented by the martyrdom of scores of their best sons and daughters, the thousands of detainees, the hundreds of wounded, and the ugly Zionist repression against our camps and numerous villages and cities; in the name of our people who have endured and still are enduring these sacrifices with courage and pride, we affirm our rejection of the plot of Mubarak, his henchmen, and imperialism's envoy Philip Habib to dictate capitulatory conditions on us, such as the recognition of Resolution 242. We also affirm the determination of the people and the masses of the glorious uprising to foil all plots regardless of the different masks of those behind them. Therefore, the people will be lying in wait for anyone who tries to represent the masses of the uprising from outside and to appoint a suspect leadership in order to make concessions and to surrender. He will also reap disappointment and abject defeat.

Sons of our people, let all efforts be concerted and all key figures, forces, bodies, and both popular and national committees be united by a common will to escalate the uprising and form all suitable organizations, such as committees and teams, in every site, street, and suburb, and in every city, village, and camp in order to pave the way for a general civil disobedience. This means boycotting all enemy organs, as well as boycotting it economically and not paying the thievish taxes.

Our heroic people, while greeting your heroism, sacrifices, and the epics of struggle being recorded by our people in Nabulus and in all parts of the homeland, and while emphasizing the fact that struggle will continue, we call for the following:

The immediate resignation of the appointed municipal councils; the completion of the formation of the merchants' national committees; abstention from paying taxes; abstention from paying the unfair fines imposed by the Zionist courts against the uprising detainees; abidance by the boycott of the agent AL-NAHAR newspaper as mentioned in a previous call; urging our masses to encourage the national economy and to boycott Zionist goods and markets and to use national goods instead; activating household economy; and rationalizing and curtailing consumption in support of our steadfastness.

O masses of the glorious uprising, let the confrontation escalate; let demonstrations and marches be staged next week; let the popular sit-in strikes and the burning of tires continue on every street; let the stones of the uprising and the Molotov cocktails pour down on the heads of the American Zionist enemy soldiers; let all the lines of settlements be cut off; and let crowded prayers be performed in mosques and churches as a prelude to declaring a comprehensive strike on Sunday and Monday, 7 and 8 February 1988, to mark the elapse of 2 months of the successful uprising and to commemorate the fall of the first group of uprising martyrs.

Our people, who are struggling to destroy the American Zionist enemy, look forward to attaining the following direct aims to which the enemy should yield since the failure of its repressive policy has been ascertained:

1. The withdrawal of the American Zionist army from cities, suburbs, and streets and the lifting of the siege on the camps.

2. Ending the repression of citizens; closing the Ansar, Gaza, Al-Fari'ah, and Al-Zahiriyah detention camps; releasing all uprising detainees; and rescinding all unfair imprisonment, fines, and other sentences handed down against them.

3. Halting work with the obsolete emergency laws.

4. Putting an end to encroachment on and desecration of holy places, removing the border guards from the courtyard of the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque, and evacuating terrorist Sharon from the holy city of Jerusalem.

5. Ending the policy of interference in the educational, trade union, press, and other institutions.

A greeting to our revolutionary people in Palestine and the Golan. Glory and immortality to the righteous martyrs. God is with us and victory is near. Together along the path of liberating land and man.

Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab radio along the path of liberating land and man.

Call To Observe 'Uprising' Day

JN051728 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Brothers, we have received the following from the Unified National Command of the Uprising: Call, call; brave masses of our Arab nation; all parties, movements, trends, and national political forces in the Arab world; all unions, institutions, and unionist, professional, and popular organizations in the Arab homeland; masses of our Arab nation; O strategic depth for our people; O defenders of our Palestinian revolution: We extend to you a sacred Palestinian Arab greeting from the roots of genuine pan-Arab affiliation, which is consecrated by the blood of the martyrs and wounded of the Palestinian Arab revolution. We issue our cry, which is mixed with the sighs and groans of prisoners and detainees. We issue it to a clear sky festooned with the stars of the martyrs of freedom, the martyrs of the holy homeland, the martyrs of those who say: We would rather die standing than bow down. We issue our cry with the hope of the martyrs of Jerusalem and Gaza that their pure souls would embrace the souls of 'Umar ibn al-Khattab and Salah al-Din while hovering in the sky of Palestine to tell you: O sons of our race, here is the uprising of the Palestinian people calling on you and urging you, big and small, men and women, workers and peasants, intellectuals and thinkers, poor and rich, students and professionals, as you are all now responsible before history. You are called upon to effectively and seriously participate in continuing Arab-Palestinian cohesion by observing the day of the great Palestinian urpising on Sunday, 7 February, in honor and glorification of the righteous martyrs of Palestine who watered the sands of Gaza 2 months ago with their pure blood. [passage omitted]

Masses of our Arab nation, Arab brothers and sisters, let Palestine's Arabism be manifested in a single pan-Arab stand and common struggle through demonstrations, general strike, public rallies, popular processions, the collection of donations, and public meetings in support of our people, cause, popular uprising, and the leader of our struggle, the PLO—the sole, legitimate representative of our Palestinian Arab people. [passage omitted]

PLO Urges 'National Day' Support

JN051849 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee; date and place not given]

[Text] Sunday, 7 February, marks 2 months since the present great uprising by our great Palestinian people inside the occupied homeland began. This uprising was started by the Palestinian people in an effort to expel the occupation from their homeland, to regain their inalienable national rights, and to affirm their adherence to the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative. The Unified National Command of the Uprising has issued a call to the Arab masses in the name of the PLO, urging them to observe Sunday, 7 February 1988, as an Arab national day and a resounding voice in support of the continuous uprising.

The Executive Committee calls on the Arab masses and all Arab and Palestinian forces, organizations, and institutions to respond to this call in affirmation of the common Arab struggle in support of our people's brave uprising, as well as the unity of the Palestinian people and their struggle at home and abroad. The Executive Committee urges the Arab masses to express their solidarity and support for the uprising on this day in all forms and by all activities.

The Executive Committee is confident that the stand taken by the Arab masses will constitute firm support for the continuation of the mighty uprising. It is also confident that the Arab stand will be a categorical rejection of all attempts to abort this uprising in order to pedal the U.S.-Zionist plot, which seeks to strike at the Palestinian revolution and liquidate our inalienable national rights.

[Signed] The PLO Executive Committee

PNSF Urges 'Commercial Strike'

JN061809 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1552 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Statement issued by the PNSF leadership on 6 February]

[Text] O masses of our Palestinian people; O masses of our Arab nation: Tomorrow our people's sweeping national uprising in Palestine will be 2 months old. As it enters into its third month, it will be stronger, more widespread, firmer, and more representative of national unity than ever before. It is the longest magnificent popular referendum expressing the will of our Palestinian and Arab people. The uprising unconditionally rejects every form of Zionist occupation of all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territory in the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon, and emphasizes our people's determination to achieve their firm national and pan-Arab goals.

Our people affirm their determination to continue the struggle and to confront the Zionist enemy's fascist and racist actions and policies. As they do so, they declare to the entire world our people's rejection of all attempts, contacts, and suspect initiatives that feverishly seek to sidestep our people's right to freedom, dignity, repatriation, and national independence. In their continuing and escalating uprising, our people declare their decisive rejection of Husni Mubarak's initiative and the meetings held between the U.S. secretary of state and those whom he had summoned for consultation, such as Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah. He did so in order to gain acceptance for the capitulatory schemes that consecrate the Camp David Accords and policy and their products, such as a government-in-exile, autonomy, the civil administration, the division of roles, and other schemes that seek to rescue the Zionist enemy from its dilemma.

The popular uprising has exposed the enemy's savagery, aggression, and expansionism. We firmly believe with you that it is the United States that stands behind the continuation of the occupation and aggression against our people and the usurpation of their inalienable national rights. We in the PNSF affirm on this historic occasion our great appreciation of your heroic sacrifices and our solidarity with your struggle and your patriotic and national effort. While doing so, we declare on the occasion of the lapse of 2 months since the beginning of the uprising and its escalation the following:

1. Proclaiming tomorrow Sunday, 7 February 1988, a day of support for the uprising on the beginning of its 3d month.

2. Allocating the first class in all of UNRWA's Palestinian schools on 7 February 1988 to talks on the heroic popular uprising, its national and pan-Arab significance, and its aims foremost among which is the rejection of all forms of the Zionist occupation and the achievement of our people's firm national aims.

3. Declaring a commercial strike in the refugee camps of the returning Palestinians for 2 hours from 1000-1200 tomorrow, Sunday 7 February 1988.

Greetings and appreciation to our people throughout the occupied homeland, in Palestine, the Golan, and southern Lebanon. Greetings and appreciation to the steadfast prisoners and detainees in the prisons of the Zionist occupation authorities. Glory and immortality to our good martyrs. Victory to the strugglers.

[Signed] The PNSF leadership

Observance Urged in All Camps

JN061913 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1646 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] O masses of our people struggling in the Palestinian camps and throughout the Arab homeland. O you who carry Palestine in your memory, in the hearts of your children, and in your hearts. O our people in the refugee camps of return outside Palestine. Our great people in Palestine are daily forging epics of self-denial and sacrifice with the flesh and blood of their heroic sons, with their bodies, and with their hands that are grasping wounds and stones they are inscribing the name of Palestine, from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River. They pelt with their stones all those who desecrate an inch of its soil, or compromise over a grain of its earth.

O our Palestinian people in the camps of return, in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and everywhere. Let tomorrow, Sunday 7 February 1988 be a day of solidarity with our people in Palestine, a day of solidarity with the sweeping popular uprising that has shaken the earth beneath the Zionists.

O our heroic Palestinian Arab people in the camps that have given their pledge. O our sons in the Al-Baq'ah camp, Al-Wihdat camp. O our kinfolk in the Schneller camp, the Suf camp, the Irbid camp, the Al-Zarqa' camp. O our kinfolk in Zizya, the Jerash camp, the Al-Husn camp, the Al-Karamah camp, the Ma'daba camp. O heroic people of Palestine. Let tomorrow, the day of solidarity, be a symbol of unity, an expression of a unified goal, and an affirmation of the pledge and the day of return.

O our heroic people in the Al-Yarmuk, Khan al-Shih, Al-Sitt Zaynab, Subaynah, Khan Dallun, and Jaramanah camps. O kinfolk in the Dar'a, Homs, Hamah, Aleppo, and Latakia camps. The day of solidarity, tomorrow, is a date between Palestine and its people, from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River.

To all places in the diaspora: Let tomorrow, 7 February 1988, be a picture of a united Palestine.

O our people in Lebanon. O kinfolk, O shield of the revolution and its daily fuel. O our people in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, Sabra, Shatila, Burj al-Barajinah, Mar Ilyas, Al-Burj al-Shamali, Al-Rashidiyah, Al-Bass, Al-Ma'shuq, Al-Qasimiyah, Al-Baddawi, Nahr al-Barid, and Ba'labakk camps. Let us all contribute tomorrow Sunday by joining in the solidarity with our people's uprising in Palestine by declaring a strike in all commercial shops in the refugee camps for 2 hours from 1000-1200, and allocating morning classes to talks about the glory of the uprising and its patriotic and national role.

Fatah Issues Statement on 'Uprising' Support

JN052046 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1810 GMT 5 Feb 88

["Text" of statement issued by the Fatah Central Committee following joint meetings with the Fatah Revolutionary Council; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee and the Revolutionary Council have held a series of continuous meetings dedicated to discussing means of escalating the comprehensive popular uprising in occupied Palestine. The Central Committee and the Revolutionary Council dwelt upon the profound facts embodied by the blessed uprising. As a whole, this uprising has and is still causing important transformations that constitute new pillars for our people's national valiant struggle to achieve their just, inalienable national rights under the PLO their sole, legitimate representative. Our people's splendid performance developed creative means of struggle that most adamantly and effectively confronted the Zionist iron-fisted policy. This blessed glorified uprising has realized a huge national achievement. Our people's struggle and the accumulation of this struggle inside and outside the occupied homeland constitute a major boosting for a comprehensive popular awakening for all nationalist forces in our Arab world. Vis-a-vis all this, the hostile forces, headed by the U.S. Administration and world Zionism, moved in a feverish attempt to besiege the uprising and halt its profound repercussiosn on all Arab and international levels. They mobilized for this purpose all their tools and capabilities in the region and the world to impose their conspiratorial solutions on our people and on our Arab nation. At the same time, they continue to deliberately ignore the new facts imposed by the popular uprising. These facts are a natural extension of the Palestinian struggle and its accumulation, written by the martyrs' precious blood and achieved by the firm militant steadfastness in the face of the major challenges facing our people and their continuous struggice to achieve their just objectives.

Our great people are recording the most splendid epics of national struggle. Sympathy, support, and backing for this struggle's objectives, which are supported by a vast majority of world states, forces, and peoples, are increasing. At the same time, the U.S. Administration is dispatching its envoys to the region, carying their suspect and conspiratorial plans against our people, revolution, and our masses' uprising. This is an attempt to liquidate our cause under various names and plans that completely ignore the Palestinian people's national, inalienable rights. This unquestionably confirms the continuation of the U.S. policy hostile to our people and cause. This policy adopts Israel and extends unlimited support for it and its crimes against our people and for its occupation of our land.

The recent U.S. Administration's veto against the UN secretary general's report exposes the U.S. Administration's blind bias, fake credibility, and plotting against just peace. This makes it useless to wager on the U.S. stand, as some in our region are still doing. New facts have been entrenched by the blessed uprising in the occupied homeland. During this uprising, the heroic Palestinian masses and their national leadership raised with all determination and resolve their immortal slogan: The removal of the occupation and the wrenching of freedom and independence. This slogan was baptized with pure blood, heavy sacrifices, and continuation, perpetuation, and escalation of defiance. Our great people's uprising is based on a firm national unity and creative integration among all elements and tools of national militant action inside and outside the occupied homeland. This uprising has put a final end to the illusions of those who wagered on the Palestinian suffering as a motive for submission and surrender. This is because the legendary steadfastness in Lebanon's camps and amazing escalation of the uprising that followed, in addition to the generous sacrifices made to perpetuate the uprising and continue struggle in all fields. have rejuvenated the Palestinian will and entrenched it among the strugglers. This confirms to everyone that these great people are worthy of attaining their national, inalienable rights: their rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil with Jerusalem as its capital under the PLO, their sole legitiamte representative.

The Fatah Central Committee and Revolutionary Council affirm pride in the splendid revolutionary and popular performance of all tasks of national struggle with all its forms and on all fronts. They assert great respect for the stone-throwing children in our homeland Palestine who insist on freedom and independence and who are united with the RPG-children in the steadfast camps in Lebanon. They stress admiration for the valiant steadfastness in face of the Zionsit iron-fist. This steadfastness is one of the most splendid, purest, and noblest forms of Palestinian popular steadfastness embodied by the heroic masses of our people in Lebanon. The Central Committee and the Revolutionary Council pledge to the masses of our Arab nation to continue struggle with all the determiantion that has been displayed by the blessed uprising, entrenched by steadfastness, and embodied by the martyrs' blood.

The Fatah movement, with all its frameworks, institutions, and cadres inside and outside the occupied homeland hails the national Palestinian unity which has been turned into practice. Fatah calls for further cohesion and cooperation to escalate our people's uprising and gigantic revolution.

The Central Committee and the Revolutionary Council also call on nationalist and popular forces in the Arab homeland as well as our friends in the world to intensify efforts and activities to extend further support for our people's uprising and revolutionary march. We note with pride the noticeable positive development among most of the peace-loving forces in the U.S. and the West, including the democratic and peaceful forces in Israel, as well as the stands of some Jewish personalities and communities in the world. We are awaiting steps to translate these stands into continuous action to acheive a just, durable peace in our region.

O masses of our great people inside and outside the occupied homeland: all free and honest ones in the world stand alongside our people's rights and our just cause. This includes the Islamic, socialist, African, nonaligned, and friendly countries. We appreciate and value their friendly stands in support of our people's just struggle, and also their support for us in all fields and on all levels. At the same time, we take pride in our standing alongside all those free and honorable friends and in struggling with them in their just causes against imperialism, Zionism, racism, and colonailism. We announce our support for all liberation mvoements, particularly in

Namibia, South Africa, and Latin and Central America, as well as for the African Frontline states against the racist Pretorian regime, the twin to the fascist, Zionist Tel Aviv regime.

O masses of our Palestinian people, O our heroic masses: Further your effort and action. Push foward responsible self-reliance which will rally sympathy and secure friends for us. Promote active moves on all levels to entrench the advanced positions reached by our just cause and national rights on the map of living causes in the world. Further rallying around the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of our people and sole leader of the national struggle.

Long live the blessed Palestinian arms that have created the most splendid example of struggle in our age, one carrying stones and another carrying arms, wrenching their rights by their blood and sacrifices. Long live our steadfast masses whose determination has shaken the Zionist ironfist policy. All plots and plotters against our people and cause have foundered on the rock of our masses' steadfastness. Long live the Palestinian revolution. Glory and immortality to our righteous martyrs. Greetings to all our detainees and prisoners in enemy jails. Greetings to all our valiant wounded. Revolution until victory!

PLO Warns Against 'Suspect' Plans

JN071016 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0925 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 Feb (WAKH)—The PLO has affirmed that the suitable framework for the attainment of a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian cause will be through an international conference enjoying full prerogatives and attended by the UN Security Council permanent members and all the parties concerned including the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative, on an equal footing with all the other parties.

A statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee explained that the U.S. Adminstration, which has rejected the UN Security Council call in this respect, insists on pursuing its hostile schemes to impose autonomy or self rule, or joint rule.

The statement, distributed by the PLO office in Abu Dhabi, said that the popular uprising, which has entered its 60th day, shows that the Palestinian people are determined to wrest their inalienable national rights from the premise of their unity wherever they may be and under the leadership of the PLO. In it statement, the PLO stressed that the heroic feats the sons of the occupied territories are recording have become a model to all the free and honest men in the world who are observing the Palestinian people's confrontation of tanks, aircraft, gas bombs, and bullets.

The PLO warned against the suspect plans being put forth as slogans and initiatives, whose objective is to abort and contain the uprising and deal a blow to its great achievements. The PLO stressed that the primary goal will continue to be the termination of the Zionist occupation and called on the international community to assume its responsibilities by having the United Nations supervise this immediate Israeli withdrawal.

Further on Statement

JN072030 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1803 GMT 7 Feb 88

["Text" of PLO Executive Committee Statement issued on 7 February 1988; place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Fain would they extinguish God's light with their mouths, but God will not allow but that His light should be perfected, even though the unbelievers may detest. [Koranic verse]

O sons of our people in the occupied homeland. O kinfolk in the West Bank, Gaza, Galilee, the Triangle, and the Negev. O brothers and sons. O men and women. O fathers and mothers. O old men and children. O steadfast heroes in every city, village, and camp in our chaste Palestinian land. Your great uprising, which has been continuing for 60 days in all parts of our homeland, demonstrates our unshakeable determination to wrest our inalienable national rights, based on our people's genuine unity in and outside the homeland. It is a unity of the masses, a unity of decision, a unity of will, and a unity and fusion between the leadership and its great people in the crucible of the PLO. The martyrs and the wounded and thousands of detained heroes are the firm basis of which our people are proud. They affirm their unbending will to expel the occupying Zionists from our sacred soil and to realize their liberation and national independence.

The epics of heroism that our people are recording daily by confronting the occupation forces and the invading settlers are a model to be followed by the noble and honorable men in the world who admire the steadfastness of our Palestinian men, women, children, and the elderly in their brave confrontation of armored vehicles, planes, gas bombs, and bullets, and in their resistance of attempts to starve them to death and of all the fascist terrorist measures of the Israeli occupation army and the gangs of racist settlers who are armed with their black rancor. The enemy's crimes against our children and women range from firing bullets to breaking limbs, killings, deportations, and arbitrary collective arrests. Our people's organizational ability has been very impressive aimed at perpetuating and spreading their uprising so that the uprising's committees reached every area, village, and camp. This is a clear proof of our people's awareness and their militant capabilities, which enjoy admiration and respect everywhere. Keep up good organization and have more action committees in all areas of struggle and on all levels—students, workers, peasants, camps, villages—and form committees for nursing programs and for the detainees. Keep up the good organizational work to prolong the uprising and increase effective work in meeting the needs of struggle.

The epic, which you are writing with your blood, relying on the ancient heritage of struggle of your nation, is now enjoying the support and sponsorship of your Arab nation, which is proud of this heroic struggle and which lends to it all forms of assistance and support.

O masses of our great people. The PLO—with its people inside and outside the occupied homeland waging confrontations on various fronts and on all Arab and international levels—affirms the seriousness of the current developments in terms of visits and serious, suspect moves, as well as the new-old liquidationist plots that are being hatched under various slogans and the initiatives aimed at aborting or containing the achievements of our people and undermining our revolution's great achievements during its long path of struggle. It is regrettable that certain Arab parties are involved in these attempts.

Our people's resistance to the occupation is a sacred right, which is approved by all international conventions and affirmed by the revolutionary determination of our masses and fighters. Hence, our aim is and will always be a just and comprehensive solution, realizing our inalienable national rights aimed at ending the Zionist occupation of our territory. We believe that the international community will shoulder its political, moral, and ethical responsibilities in supervising an immediate Israeli withdrawal through the United Nations and UN Forces.

While appreciating the stands taken by the sisterly and friendly forces in supporting the struggle of our brave people in the occupied territory, the PLO affirms that the suitable framework for reaching a just and comprehensive peace is the fully-powered international conference to be be attended by the UN Security Council permanent members and all the parties concerned, including the PLO—the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—on an equal footing with other parties; hence, the importance of the UN Security Council's call on the ministerial level. All parties have approved this call with the exception of the U.S. Administration, which insists on continuing its hostile plans to impose an autonomy, self-rule, or joint rule, all of which will founder on the rock of our people's steadfastness and determination.

O struggling masses. The great epics of our people in confronting enemy arrogance and terrorism to gain their national rights prove that our people's march is proceeding forward with the great firmness, faith, and pride of people and fighters everywhere and on all fronts. The waves of our people's uprising, its results and developments show that the path of struggle is the path of victory, that the sacrifices being made by our people will not be in vain, that they will be torches of fire until our people's inalienable rights are realized, including their right to return, to realize self-determination, and to establish the independent Palestinian state on our national soil, with Jerusalem as its capital, with God's support.

Victory is coming, O people and beloved brothers. Our Zionist enemy is suffering more than ever before as a result of its heightening crisis, its internal divisions, its isolation from all sides, and its continuous failure to suppress the will of our people who fight for the sake of freedom and independence. Glory to you, O makers of glory. Victory to you, O makers of victory. Long live your steadfastness, O brave, splendid people. Long live the mothers who nursed you, long live the stone-throwing children who are cooperating with the children of the RPG rifles. Long live the land on which you were brought up, and long live the homeland you are protecting with your bare chests. Greetings to all of our heroes and detainees in the enemy prisons and detention camps. Glory and immortality to our martyrs. Victory to you, the people, the nation. Our tryst will be in the morning. The morning can never be far behind. If you support God, God will support you.

[Signed] The PLO Executive Committee, 7 February

PFLP Urges Arabs Not To Receive Murphy

JN070645 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 Feb 88

[text] In a statement issued in Damascus, the PFLP criticized the U.S. policy and urged the Arab capitals not to receive Richard Murphy in protest over this policy.

PLO-Chartered Ship To Cruise to Israeli Coast

LD071156 Kuwait KUNA in English 1114 GMT 7 Feb 88

[By Saleh Nazal and Yahya Matar; all quotation marks as received]

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 7 (KUNA)—A spokesman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Sunday affirmed that a PLO-chartered ship will cruise to the shores of occupied Palestine on Wednesday as originally planned but could not predict how the Israeli occupying authorities would react to the situation.

The ship, the "Return Voyage" ship, will have onboard over 500 including 130 expelled Palestinians and some 200 personalities from the United States, Europe, Eastern Europe and Japan in addition to over 200 journalists and mediamen from all over the world, the PLO spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif told KUNA.

The voyage will be undertaken in implementation of the Security Council Resolution 607 which was unanimously adopted condemning Israel's deportation of the

Palestinians under the pretext of being responsible for inciting the uprising in the occupied territories, he said in an exclusive interview with KUNA here today.

The cruise is expected to last between ten days and two weeks, Abu Sharif said but could not predict, when asked, "how the Israelis would behave' towards the situation.

The PLO spokesman dismissed reports that the voyage would "steal the limelight" from the popular uprising which entered the second month today, saying "the voyage is a political operation designed to back up the uprising and is one in a series the organisation has been engaged in to secure eventual evacuation of the Israeli occupying forces.

The PLO has taken the decision that the uprising should continue until the Israeli occupation is eradicated, he said, adding that the United States is trying to circumvent the uprising but that the Palestinians, under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, are fully aware of the plot.

Abu Sharif repeated to KUNA the PLO peace plan which centres on United Nations troops to protect the Palestinians, withdrawal of the Israeli occupying forces and self-determination for the Palestinian people under United Nations auspices.

Responding to a question on the American veto killing a resolution calling for deployment of United Nations forces to protect Palestinians in the occupied territories, Abu Sharif said the American stance placed the organisation before a number of political options, including taking the whole issue to the General Assembly.

In this connection Abu Sharif said there is close coordination between the PLO and the permanent members of the Security Council specially the Soviet Union, with the exception of the United States, describing the initiative of the Soviet Union to the secretary general as "a friendly initiative and part of the Soviet Union's active support to the struggle of the Palestinian people.

"I can assure you," Abu Sharif told KUNA, "The Soviet Union is following the details of the uprising with deep concern and is in constant coordination with the organisation on all issues relating to the Middle East crisis."

Concluding, the PLO spokesman expressed confidence that the Palestinians outside occupied Palestine will respond favourably to the organisation's request that each Palestinian family abroad will sponsor one inside occupied Palestine until victory is attained.

PLO Spokesman on 'Distribution of Firearms'

JN071717 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Statement by "official Palestinian spokesman"; date and place not given]

[Text] The Zioinst enemy has recently resorted to applying new terrorist methods involving the distribution of firearms to squads of terrorist settlers to help in storming villages, towns, and camps in the occupied land, alongside the Zionist military forces, in a criminal, hysterical fashion. The new policy was begun on an extensive scale on 5 February.

Against the backdrop of increased criminal acts against our people, children, and women, the PLO will not stand idly by. Under the circumstances, the PLO will behave in a manner compatible with its responsibilities. At the same time, the PLO calls on the United Nations, humanitarian bodies, and all decent people around the world to confront this new, racist, terrorist wave against our people. The PLO, however, emphasizes that far from intimidating our people, such tactics will stiffen their resolve to carry on the militant march until victory.

Blood Donations Needed in West Bank, Gaza

JN071829 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1750 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Call, call, call. To the heroic sons of our people. Hospitals in the West Bank and Gaza appeal to you to proceed and donate much needed blood in view of the great number of casualties among the heroes of the uprising.

You are called on today and tomorrow to proceed to hospitals to donate blood, contribute toward strengthening the sweeping popular uprising, and meet all eventualities.

Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab radio for the liberation of land and man.

Algeria

Bendjedid on Unification of Arab Maghreb

LD051453 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] The Arab Maghreb region is witnessing important developments which seek to achieve the union of the great Arab Maghreb in compliance with the aspirations of the peoples of the region and of their leaders.

Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN Party, affirmed in his speech before the governors of the Republic that the states of the region have gone beyond the stage of slogans and have entered the stage of a real building of the great Arab Maghreb.

In this respect he pointed out that the four states of Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, and Mauritania have excellent relations of cooperation and are intensifying their consultations and contacts in order to speed up the achievements of this qualitative stage in the process of the unionist building of the great Arab Maghreb.

The FLN Political Bureau also expressed at its latest meeting its satisfaction with the level of relations existing between the four Arab Maghreb states of Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania, and Libya.

In Tunisia, Tunisian-Libyan cooperation is the topic of the summit meeting between Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdahfi, the leader of the Libyan revolution, who arrived in the Tunisian capital yesterday at the head of an important delegation.

This visit seeks to establish fruitful cooperation and contacts for the sake of making a qualitative leap forward to the process of the unionist building of the Arab Maghreb.

This Tunisian-Libyan meeting comes after the visit by Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the party, to Tunisia and Libya last January.

Al-Qadhdhafi Arrives, Meets With Bendjedid

Delegations Noted

LD061747 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Excerpt] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN Party, has been in Annaba since noon today. Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, also arrived in Annaba today. President Chadli Bendjedid and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi were accorded a warm popular welcome when they arrived in the city.

President Chadli Bendjedid is accompanied by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, El Hadi Khdiri, Larbi Belkheir, and Faysal Boudraa. Col al-Qadhdhafi is accompanied by a delegation which includes Fawzi al-Shakshuki, secretary of the General People's Committee; [name indistinct], member of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison; and Ahmad al-Khayyal, director of the Arab Department of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison. [passage omitted]

Arrival, Welcome Detailed

LD061901 Tripoli JANA in English 1808 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Algiers, Al-Nuwar [February] 6, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The masses of the wilaya [administrative region] of Annaba in sisterly Algeria went out early this morning to welcome the leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution as he arrived this afternoon at the airport of Annaba in Algeria.

The leader of the revolution saluted tens of thousands of the popular masses who gathered since early this morning along the road from the airport to the palace of residence of the brother leader.

The popular masses gathered around the leader of the revolution as he arrived at the entrance of the city of Annaba where he was handed over the key to the city and boarded an open car in the company of President Chadli Bendjedid amidst the chanting by the masses expressing their pride and appreciation of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and its leader and the unity of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and the First of November revolution calling for quicker action for the establishment of unity between the Arab people in Great Jamahiryah and Algeria as an advanced step along the road of total Arab unity.

The masses raised the pictures of the leader of the revolution and banners expressing their adherence to Arab unity as a way of the liberation of occupied Palestine and reaffirming their determination to confront all plots and schemes hatched by imperialism against the Arab nation and its aspirations for unity and liberation.

A massive official and popular ceremony was mounted for the leader of the revolution when he arrived at the airport of Annaba where President Chadli Bendjedid, the president of the Republic and the secretary general of the Politbureau of the FLN, headed the party welcoming him.

Also taking part in the welcoming ceremony were Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, the member of the FLN Politbureau and responsible for the permanent secretariat of the Central Committee of the FLN, Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the member of the FLN Politbureau and foreign minister, El Hadi Khdiri, the member of the Central Committee and minister of the interior, the wali [governor] of Annaba, members and cadres of the FLN Party and the secretary and members of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Algeria and the ambassador of Algeria to Great Jamahiriyah.

And after the anthem "Allah Akbar" and the Algerian national anthem were performed the leader of the revolution accompanied by President Chadli Bendjedid inspected the guards of honour who stood in salute whilst twenty one gun salute were fired welcoming the leader to the wilaya of Annaba in Algeria.

Then the leader of the revolution headed for the wilaya and went afterwards in the company of President Chadli Bendjedid to his residence.

The leader of the revolution left Tunisia this afternoon after a visit to the Republic of Tunisia lasting three days upon an invitation extended to him by his brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. [passage omitted]

The leader of the revolution made a statement to the press. Following is the text:

My expectations, before meeting my brother President Zine El Abedine, were positive and good and after I met with him these expectations were confirmed and in fact I am very happy and unable to express my feeling of happiness and pride in my brother President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali and I am able to assert that a new achievement emerged in green Tunisia on the 7th November or rather for the Arab Maghreb and the whole Arab nation. Also this is a strong foundation stone for in the [as received] edifice of this nation. We have met in a meeting of brothers and not as official meeting or official visit or a foreign visit. This means that we are one family and one people. This is my feeling although words cannot express the real joy of the popular masses which herald a good future.

'Private Talks' Held

LD062319 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Excerpt] At the wishes of the nations of the Arab Maghreb, the leaders of our area are trying within their intensive moves and periodic meetings to realize the hopes of these nations in unity, solidarity, accord, fraternity, and fruitful cooperation. In this framework, President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN Party, held a meeting with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, who is currently on a visit of friendship at the head of a Libyan delegation after ending an official 48-hour visit to fraternal Tunisia.

The meeting of the Algerian and Libyan leaders in Annaba strengthened the ties linking the two Algerian and Libyan peoples. The meeting was held within the framework of the periodic meetings and intensive moves of the leaders along the road of building the edifice of the greater Arab Maghreb to which all the nations of this area aspire.

The two leaders, Chadli Bendjedid and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, held private talks at the guest palace in Annaba province. The town's masses gave them a warm welcome, hailing the continuation of brotherhood and solidarity, and calling for the long life of Al-Qadhdhafi and Bendjedid as an expression of their joy for this fraternal meeting, which was held to bolster the firm ties linking the two fraternal peoples and countries. [passage omitted]

Bendjedid Hosts Banquet

LD071029 Tripoli JANA in English 0945 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Algiers, Al-Nuwar [February] 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—President Chadli Bendjedid, the president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN, last night held a banquet in honour of the leader of the revolution.

Attending the banquet, held at the Officers Club in Annaba, Mohammad Cherif Messaadia, the member of the Politbureau and responsible for the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee of the FLN Party, Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the member of the Politbureau and minister of foreign affairs, El Hadi Khdiri, the member of the Central Committee of the FLN and minister of the interior, Larbi Belkheir, the member of the Central Committee and director of the office of the president of the Republic, the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau to Algeria and the Algerian ambassador to Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Honors War Dead

LD071904 Tripoli JANA in English 1738 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Annaba, Al-Nuwar [February] 7, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution this morning paid a visit to the memorial of the martyrs of the Algerian war of liberation where he laid a wreath on the martyrs memorial in the wilaya of Annaba and read verses from the holy Koran in respect to those who died for the liberty and Arab identity of the country.

The leader of the revolution was accompanied in his visit by Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the member of the Politbureau and foreign minister, the secretary of the Libyan Arab People's Brotherhood Bureau in Algeria and the Algerian ambassador to Great Jamahiryah.

SDAR President Joins Talks

LD072236 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
2200 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and general secretary of the party, has received SDAR President Mohamed Abdelaziz at the Annaba wilayat headquarters. We have learned, a short while ago, that a tripartite meeting was held tonight at Annaba wilayat headquarters with the participation of Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Algerian Republic; Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution; and Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic.

Chad

Frolinat Reports Violent Fighting Near Tchoro

LD071432 Paris International Service in French
1245 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] In Chad, the 1st Army of Frolinat has reported violent fighting with the armed forces of Hissein Habre. The fighting is said to be taking place in Tchoro not far from Goz Beida.

UNIR, CAC-CDR Issue 'Important' Communique

AB052052 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1917 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] We now have an important communique. It is a joint UNIR [National Union for Independence and Revolution] CAC-CDR [Coordination and Action Committee of the Revolutionary Democratic Council] communique. Here are the contents:

Strengthened on the one hand by the guiding principles and objectives which make the UNIR a great rallying movement, the melting pot of national unity, and the regrouping force of all the sons of Chad, and convinced on the other hand by the total commitment and patriotism demonstrated by the CAC-CDR, a UNIR Executive Bureau delegation, headed by assistant executive secretary Comrade (Youssuf Igissou Zoumi), and a CAC-CDR Executive Bureau delegation, headed by its president, Comrade (Mahamad Senoussi Hadji), held a series of meeting from 4 January to 4 February 1988.

During these meetings, the two delegations examined all the problems affecting the life of the nation, and recorded identical views on the issues discussed. The discussions were held in an atmosphere of brotherhood and frank understanding. At the end of their deliberations, very important decisions were made marking a new and decisive turn in the irreversible process of national unity for Chad. The decisions will be made known to the national and international communities shortly by the two sides.

Issued in Ndjamena on 5 February 1988.

Signed for UNIR by the commissioner for economy, finance, and rural development, [name indistinct], and for the CAC-CDR by (Mahamad Senoussi Hadji)

UNIR Official on Socialist Congress Meeting

AB060827 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Excerpts] The fourth congress of the Inter-African Socialist Movement has just ended in Tunis. Thirty-three delegations, including Chad's, participated in the congress. Our national movement, the National Union for Independence and Revolution [UNIR], a full member of the Inter-African Socialist Movement, was represented in Tunis by the deputy commissioner for external relations in the UNIR Executive Bureau, Comrade (Adou Mustapha). Speaking to the Chadian radio and television corporation, (Adou Mustapha) first presented the Inter-African Socialist Movement before discussing the outcome of the meeting for Chad:

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[(Mustapha)] Yes, naturally, the Chad-Libya conflict was discussed. It was even discussed in detail. Outside the meetings, every delegation participating in the congress approached our delegation so that we could brief them fully on the situation prevailing between Chad and Libya, but [words indistinct] say traditionally that the Chadian Government is [words indistinct] on national reconciliation, the recovery of our territorial integrity and also in our efforts at national unity. [passage omitted] In the resolutions, a paragraph was devoted to the Chad-Libya conflict, particularly supporting the current efforts of the OAU ad hoc committee to find a solution to this conflict. [end recording]

Egypt

Mubarak, Delegation Return to Cairo 6 Feb

NC061536 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, his wife, and the delegation accompanying him have returned home from the Turkish capital, Ankara, at the conclusion of a tour which took him to the FRG, the United Kingdom, the United States, France, Morocco, Italy, the Vatican, Greece, and Turkey.

During his tour, President Mubarak held talks with the leaders of these countries on the Middle East issue, the possibility of convening an international peace conference in light of his initiative, the current uprising in the occupied Arab territories, developments in the Gulf, and bilateral relations.

Upon arriving at Cairo airport, the president was met by People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, Consultative Council Speaker Dr 'Ali Lutfi, and Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi. Also receiving him at the airport were the deputies of the prime minister, cabinet ministers, a number of People's Assembly and Consultative Council members, senior state officials, heads of the diplomatic missions of the countries which the president had visited, and senior Armed Forces commanders.

Comments on Peace Conference

NC061715 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)— President Husni Mubarak has reaffirmed: Our concentration is now directed toward finding a conclusive solution to the Palestinian issue. This is the focus of all our efforts and what preoccupies all parties.

Upon his return home this evening, President Mubarak was asked to assess the results of his talks. President Mubarak replied: We are discussing an international conference for peace and we have agreed that there should be one. He added that he had contacted King Husayn of Jordan regarding this issue.

Commenting on reports about a new U.S. initiative, the president said: So far, we have not been informed about a U.S. initiative. He added that the media sometimes carry reports to gauge reaction.

'Military Mutiny' Reportedly Attempted in Cairo

LD071844 Tripoli JANA in English 1740 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, Al-Nuwar [February] 7, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—Reports from Egypt said that an armed military mutiny took place at the district of Qanat-Canal—in the south of the Egyptian capital.

The reports indicated that fierce battles occured during the last two days between pro and anti regime forces.

They pointed out that hundreds of military men and armed civilians took positions at farms and nearby mountains in the district of Qanat.

AL-AKHBAR newspaper of the Egyptian Government said that pro government forces had arrested 1161 citizens whom it said took part in the mutiny.

Previous reports spoke of armed mutiny in the city of Asyut in the Egyptian said [as received] where fierce clashes occured between the pro regime forces and hundreds of military men and armed civilians opposing the regime who took positions in the nearby mountains.

Tehran Radio on 'Unsuccessful Coup' Last Jan

NC061823 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] In its latest issue, the AL-KIFAH AL'ARABI magazine reveals that there was an unsuccessful coup attempt against Husni Mubarak by units of the Egyptian Armed Forces. The magazine says that the coup attempt was carried out by Egyptian Air Force units last January. It adds that Egyptian security officials have launched wide-scale investigations, resulting in the arrest of over 10 Air Force officers thus far for interrogation.

Official Denies Escorting of Ships in Canal

NC071450 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1412 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—An official source today stated that Egypt is constantly safeguarding the Suez Canal and the Egyptian coast irrespective of any hostile declarations against Egypt.

The source dismissed as absolutely untrue a report published in a Gulf newspaper that Egypt has begun to watch and escort the ships passing through the Suez Canal and along the Red sea coast, and that naval launches are accompanying the convoys passing through the Canal lest a ship should plant mines.

Ghali, USSR Envoy Discuss Palestinian Events

NC071336 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met with the Soviet ambassador in Cairo today to discuss developments in the occupied Arab territories. The Soviet ambassador stressed the importance of working to put an end to Israel's hostile measures against the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories, stating that the Soviet Union will continue its contacts with the UN Security Council members to pave the way for convening an international peace conference so that the Palestinian people may recover their legitimate rights, especially their right to self-determination.

Awqaf Minister Criticizes Iranian 'Practices'

NC061512 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait, 6 Feb (MENA)—Egyptian Minister of Awqaf Dr Muhammad 'Ali al-Mahjub has affirmed that Iran's terrorist acts and killings are due to the Iranian rulers' aggressiveness and have nothing to do with Islam's teachings and rules.

In an interview with today's edition of the Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH, the Awqaf minister said that Iran's unusual practices have defamed Islam and Muslims and have given the enemies of Islam an opportunity to attack it.

He pointed out that the Higher Council of Islamic Affairs will hold its first meeting, since its recent formation in Cairo in March, to discuss issues of concern to Islam and Muslims.

Fundamentalist Incidents Reported in Aswan

NC061714 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Egyptian sources have reported that a group of Egyptian fundamentalists today attacked three shops selling wine and alcoholic drinks in Aswan, southern Egypt. This group beat the owners of the shops and a number of their customers. They also broke windows, as a result of which three persons were injured. The sources added that the Egyptian police are searching for the perpetrators.

Libya

Afghan Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

LD072059 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] 'Abdul Wakil, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

After his arrival, Brother 'Abdul Wakil made a statement to JANA in which he stressed the depth of relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Afghanistan and expressed his pleasure and that of his accompanying delegation at visiting our country. He voiced the Afghan people's pride in the important achievements witnessed in all fields in the Great Jamahiriyah due to the Great Al-Fatih Revolution. He stressed Afghanistan's support for the Great Jamahiriyah in facing imperialist provocations.

PFLP Official, Delegation Arrive in Tripoli

LD081057 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0955 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Feb (JANA)—Brother Taysir Qub'ah, member of the PFLP Political Bureau, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli this morning on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Armed Forces Chief Receives Sudanese Group

LD071011 Tripoli JANA in English 0925 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nuwar [February] 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, yesterday received the Sudanese delegation which includes Dr Nasir Assayed and Taha Mirghani who are at present on a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Yugoslav Envoy, Letter

LD041210 Tripoli JANA in English 1103 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nuwar [February] 4, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has received the ambassador of Yugoslavia accredited to Great Al-Jamahiriyah.

The ambassador has handed the leader of the revolution a letter from the Yugoslavian leaders.

Sudan

Foreign Minister Terms U.S. Veto 'Retreat'

JN071732 Khartoum SUNA in English 1705 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb. 7 (SUNA)—Foreign Minister Dr Ma'mun Sanadah has expressed regret over the U.S. veto against the draft resolution which [was] presented before the U.N. Security Council on the aggression against the Palestinian people in the Arab occupied land. Dr Sanadah, in a press statement issued here today, described the U.S. veto against the resolution as a retreat from positive stances taken previously by the U.S. Administration.

Meanwhile, the foreign minister reviewed here yesterday with the PLO representative to Sudan the development of popular upheaval in the Arab occupied lands.

Ethiopian Planes Raid Village; Casualties

JN061217 Khartoum SUNA in English 1025 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb. 6 (SUNA)—Ethiopian air fighters have raided the Sudanese village of Atemkait [name as received]—50 kilometers from Kassala town in the Eastern Region—the daily AL-SUDAN issued here today reported.

Failing to mention when did the raid took place, the daily added that at least a citizen was killed while other 9 were injured.

The Ethiopian planes raided the airspace last year several times.

Reply on Joint Ethiopian Meetings Expected

JN062007 Khartoum SUNA in English 1710 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb. 6 (SUNA)—The Foreign Ministry is expected to receive within the two coming days a response from Ethiopian Government regarding the date of joint ministerial committee meetings which will be held here.

The meetings which will be presided by the two countries foreign ministers will discuss means of normalizing relations between the two neighbouring countries, a reliable source at the Foreign Ministry said.

Foreign Ministry Expels Iranian 6 Feb

NC061503 Cairo MENA in English 1440 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 6 (MENA)—The Sudan Foreign Ministry has expelled an Iranian personality, according to the Sudanese newspaper "AL-ADWA'" today.

According to the paper, the Iranian personality, which the paper did not name, had arrived in Sudan on a ten-day visit as part of a group of three Iranians belonging to the "Jihad Wa al-Bina' (Holy Struggle and Construction) Organisation" which was under Khomeyni's direct control.

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry asked the Iranian charge d'affaires in Khartoum, Nematalla Kadry, to ask the unnamed Iranian personality to leave as his residence visa had expired.

The Iranian charge d'affaires asked for an extension on the pretext that the Iranian personality carried a diplomatic passport and could be considered a member of the Iranian Embassy in Khartoum.

The Sudan Foreign Ministry refused and asked that the Iranian personality return to Tehran and submit a new application to the Sudanese Embassy in the Iranian capital, "AL-ADWA'" newspaper said.

Pacifico Lado Returns From Visit to Iraq

JN061828 Khartoum SUNA in English 1720 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 6 (SUNA)—Two Iraqi airplanes loaded with 80 tonnes of relief stuffs arrived here Saturday and other Iraqi planes are due to arrive in Khartoum daily to transport 240 tonnes of relief stuffs provided by Iraq as first batch to relief the affected citizens in the southern region.

Member of the Council of State Dr Pacifico Lado who returned here from a five day visit to Iraq, announced. [sentence as received]

Dr. Pacifico described his visit to Iraq as fruitful and said it has realized its goals.

He pointed out that the commissioner general for relief and rehabilitation has received the quantities of the two planes.

Regarding his visit to Iraq, Dr. Pacifico said he had discussed with Iraqi officials bilateral relations and issues related to African and Arab questions.

He added that he had acquainted the Iraqi officials with the Sudan's stance toward the civil war in southern Sudan and the developments of this war. He said he has explained to Iraqi authorities efforts exerted by the government to reach peaceful solution to the southern Sudan question and measures taken to convening the constitutional conference to discuss the Sudan problems.

Dr. Pacifico expressed his thanks to the Iraqi Government for providing assistance to Sudan.

SPLA Rebels Say Government Fighter Shot Down

EA052023 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Excerpts] One enemy jet fighter plane has been shot down over Juba airport yesterday by SPLA forces of "Bright Star Campaign." The plane was shot down by First Lieutenant Garang Akok Dut as it was taking off from Juba airport bound for air raids on SPLA positions. The jet was hit and crashed inside Juba Hilah Ghabat residential area, killing the pilot and co-pilots. The correspondent says that two SAM missiles were used yesterday. The first missed a large transport plane and burst with a large, terrifying explosion over Juba town, causing lots of panic inside the town.

Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports say the pilot of the jet fighter plane was a foreign mercenary that Khartoum prefers to call brothers [as heard] while the co-pilots were Sudanese.

Commenting on this magnificent victory, the official SPLM-SPLA spokesman said that the downing of the jet fighter followed Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's arrogant press conference and SPLA's swift reaction of the last 2 days. The spokesman reiterated SPLA's warning to all aircraft to keep off from all airspace in the war zone one. The spokesman went on to say that the prime minister, Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, must now know that when SPLA speaks, it acts. Otherwise, he deceives himself and the public. Anyone who did not take seriously the recent warning by the SPLA better do so, warned the spokesman. [passage omitted]

In a related development, the official spokesman of the SPLA high command dismissed Khartoum's claim yesterday that they killed 51 SPLA soldiers and destroyed 1

82-mm mortar through air raids. How do you count 51 soldiers killed and 1 mortar destroyed when you are in a MiG-23 up in the air, asked the spokesman.

Another cheap propaganda is that SPLA soldiers were pushed toward the Uganda border. The fact is that it is al-Sadiq's Kapoeta force that fled to Uganda and Al-Sadiq is trying to cover this by saying that SPLA also flees to Uganda. This is absurd, concluded the spokesman.

Government Decides To Halt Dialogue With SPLM

JN071039 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum Feb. 7 (SUNA)—The Council of Ministers has decided to halt dialogue with the rebels of Sudan People's Liberation Movement due to [a] new development after occupation of Kapoeta Equatoria Region by the rebels, Minister of Culture and Information and the government official spokesman Al-Tawm Muhammad al-Tawm announced here Sunday. The minister said the decision was taken because the SPLM is continuing its military operations and capturing of new towns. The official spokesman of the government confirmed that the government will continue its military operations against the rebels till they responded to peace and stop killing innocent citizens in the south of Sudan. Regarding the current negotiations being conducted with SPLM in Addis Ababa Al-Tawm said these negotiations had conducted by a seven-man popular committee and it did not carry an official identity" adding that they are aiming at reaching an agreement with the rebels to sign the Sudan's charter which was signed by a number of political parties here. The minister pointed out that the Sudanese Air Forces are continuing raids on areas of rebels in Equatoria to recapture Kapoeta.

Taj al-Din Briefed on Commander's Defection

JN061815 Khartoum SUNA in English 1724 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 6 (SUNA)—Member of the Council of State Dr. 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din was briefed here Saturday by a delegation of Anya Nya II dubbed the governments friendly forces, on the circumstances that accompanied defection of Anya Nya II commander, Gordon Kong Choul, to the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) of Col John Garang.

Anya Nya II Information Secretary Lt. Colonel Muhammad Choul [name as received] said the Any Nya II Movement delegation had emphasized during the meeting the Anya Nya II commitment to cease fire and firm stand alongside the government Armed Forces.

The Anya Nya II delegation member pointed out that defection of Anya Nya II commander to the SPLA was an individual conduct that did not hurt the movement. Also, he added that Anya Nya II had pledged to work along with the government's forces stressing that Anya Nya had actually started fighting against the SPLA.

He further said that defection of Anya Nya II commander to the SPLA was achieved under privileges made by Ethiopia adding that Brig Pawlina Matieb [name as received] was appointed commander general of the movement and that the movement's higher command would be formed according to the current hierarchy in the movement.

Tunisia

Reports on Al-Qadhdhafi Visit, Official Talks

Meets With Ben Ali 5 Feb

LD051343 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] His excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, held a tete-a-tete conversation this morning.

The Tunisian-Libyan talks also continued this morning, on the second day of Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Tunisia at the invitation of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was accompanied from his residence in Essaada Palace in La Marsa to Carthage Palace by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche. At the Palace of the Republic in Carthage, President Zine El Abdine Ben Ali and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi held a tete-a-tete conversation.

An extended Tunisian-Libyan meeting was then held with the head of state and the leader of the Libyan revolution. For Tunisia the meeting was attended by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche; Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestir; Interior Minister Habib Ammar; National Economy Minister Slaheddine Ben Mbarak; Mohamed Ghannouchi, minister delegate to the prime minister in charge of planning; and Social Affairs Minister Tawfiq Cheikhrouhou.

On the Libyan side, the meeting was attended by Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi and by Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison; Fawzi al-Shakshuki, secretary of the General People's Committee for General Services; and 'Abd al-Ati al-'Ubaydi, permanent delegate of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to the Arab League.

The talks between President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi are expected to continue this evening in Essaada Palace in La Marsa.

Attends Friday Prayers

LD052132 Tripoli JANA in English 1835 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Tunis, Al-Nuwar [February] 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali performed today the Friday prayers at "Sidi 'Abd al 'Aziz" Mosque in Al-Marsi, Tunis.

Massive crowds of the brotherly Tunisian Arab people greeted the leader of the revolution all the way leading to the mosque after the prayers chanting slogans hailing the great Al-Fatih revolution. Women trilling cries of joy in expression of pleasure at the leader's visit to sisterly Tunisia.

Continues Talks With Ben Ali

LD052344 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] On Friday, the Tunisian-Libyan summit talks continued. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali held two tete-a-tete sessions with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution. The first session took place this morning, followed by an extended Tunisian-Libyan working session under the supervision of the head of state and the leader of the Libyan revolution. The second private meeting took place on Friday evening.

The president and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi also performed Friday prayers at Sidi 'Abd al 'Aziz in La Marsa.

The president gave a dinner in honor of Col al-Qadhdhafi and his delegation Friday at the Presidential Palace in Carthage.

Friday evening at the government palace in Qasabah, an extended Tunisian-Libyan working session was held, presided over for Tunisia by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, and for Libya by Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi.

Mr Hedi Baccouche said that the meeting of the two leaders, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, confirms their joint will to build a future on the basis of fraternity and mutual trust in the interests of the two fraternal countries and for the sake of making the Arab nation stronger and impregnable.

Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi stressed the support of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah for the 7 November change in Tunisia, and its support for and solidarity with the youthful leadership in Tunisia, headed by Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Earlier, Mr Hedi Baccouche held talks with Maj al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi in the presence of Minister of Interior Habib Ammar and Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri.

Meets With Ben Ali 6 Feb

LD061148 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Tunis, 6 Feb (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution held a tete-a-tete meeting with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning at Essaada Palace in Tunisia.

Meets Pan-Arab Movement Head

LD061151 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Tunis, 6 Feb (JANA)—In Tunis last night the brother leader of the revolution received Brother Bechir Essid, secretary general of the Pan-Arab Gathering Movement in Tunisia.

Receives Arab League's Klibi

LD061146 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1050 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Tunis, 6 Feb (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution received Brother Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, this morning. The meeting was attended by the Great Jamahiriyah's permanent representative at the Arab League.

Meets With Socialist Officials

LD061154 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1055 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Tunis, 6 Feb (JANA)—In Tunis this morning, the brother leader of the revolution received Brother Ahmed Mestiri, secretary general of the Socialist Democratic Movement. The meeting was attended by Brothers Mohamed Mouda and Dali Zaji, members of the movement.

Gives Impressions of Visit

LD061408 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's 2-day visit ended today after he held talks with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

At Tunis Carthage international airport, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi gave the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Your Excellency, what are your impressions after this visit to Tunisia?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Before meeting with Brother Zine, I did in fact have good and positive expectations. After meeting with him, this impression was confirmed. In fact, I am very happy and I cannot express how happy I am and how proud I am of my brother Zine El Abidine and his aides. I can confirm that a new dawn has broken, not only upon green Tunisia on 7 November, but also upon the Arab Maghreb, and even upon the Arab nation. This is a new firm stone in the construction of this nation's honor. We met as brothers and friends and not in an official capacity during an official visit, or as strangers, because we are one family and one people. Therefore I feel, even if I cannot express it in words, the contentment and the reality of the popular masses which expect good things in our future. [end recording]

Tunisia's honored guest was seen off by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali; Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche; Rachid Sfar, speaker of the House of Deputies; members of the government and of the Political Bureau of the Destourian Socialist Party; the governor of Tunis; the chairman of Tunis city council; 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah permanent representative to the Arab League; and by members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Tunisia. [passage omitted]

Ben Ali on Importance of Visit

LD061919 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1805 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Tunis, 6 Feb (JANA)—President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has underlined the importance of the visit of the brother leader of the revolution to Tunisia.

In a statement today to Jamahiriyah radio and JANA, he said that brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Tunisia is considered to be a natural event, since the Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia are linked by fraternal ties embodied in a common dialogue and a common destiny. He affirmed that the Arab people in Tunisia have been waiting a long time for this visit.

He asserted that brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's visit comes as part of the unionist steps taking place for the unification of the Arab Maghreb.

Concluding his statement, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali expressed optimism that all the obstacles to the achievement of the goals and aspirations of the Arab masses with regard to unity will disappear.

Joint Press Statement Issued

LD062034 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1915 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, 6 Feb (JANA)—A press statement was issued in Tripoli and Tunis at the end of the 4-6 February visit of the brother leader of the revolution to fraternal Tunisia. Here is the text of the statement:

At the invitation of Brother Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Tunisian Republic, the brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great 1 September Revolution, paid a fraternal visit to Tunisia 4-6 February 1988.

This visit falls within the framework of the fraternal relations linking the two fraternal countries and demonstrates their desire to strengthen ties of amity and fruitful cooperation.

Talks were held between the brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and his distinguished guest, brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The talks were attended by Brother Hedi Baccouche, prime minister of the Tunisian Government, and Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi.

They dealt with the best way to bolster bilateral cooperation in all fields in a manner that would benefit the peoples of the two countries, as well as the best means to consolidate the ties of brotherhood and friendship between them.

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi extended his congratulations to the brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on the historical transformation which took place in November 1987, and stressed to him the Libyan Arab people's support for the new upsurge of the Tunisian people and their courageous leadership along the path of progress and renaissance.

In an atmosphere of brotherhood and understanding, the two sides agreed to develop their relations in order to reach integration in all fields as a step toward unity between them, and to work for the unity of the great Arab Maghreb as a prelude for comprehensive Arab unity.

The two sides decided the following:

1. To reaffirm the agreements signed in all fields between the two countries and to work for their implementation, and in so doing to give priority to economic, social, and cultural agreements.

2. To call on the higher joint commission to convene during the last week of March this year.

3. To abolish entry visas for the two countries' citizens beginning 15 February this year, and to remove all obstructions hindering the freedom of movement of one country's citizens to the other country.

4. To work for the implementation of the International Court of Justice ruling regarding the continental shelf, and to jointly exploit its resources, particularly fish, oil, and gas.

5. To reaffirm their determination to complete the tripartite gas pipeline project.

The situation in the Arab Maghreb region in particular, and Arab, Islamic, and African issues in general, were reviewed during the meeting. The two sides stressed that the building of a comprehensive and integrated Arab Maghreb is a strategic inevitability supported by historical, geographical, and human elements and economic and social interests, which must be accomplished on a correct basis in order to safeguard common interests.

In reviewing the prevailing Arab situation, the two sides noted the Palestinian issue. In this context, they gave a proud salute to the overwhelming courageous uprising undertaken by the struggling Palestinian people and their challenge to the repressive and ugly Zionist practices of oppression, murder, and deportation imposed on them by the occupationist forces.

While they condemn these practices, they call on the international community and world public to stand firm against the Zionist policy—which contradicts international law and charters—and to intensify their support for the principles of rightness and justice. This would enable the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the PLO—their sole legitimate representative—to exercise their lawful national right to self-determination, to establish their own independent state in their own land, and to end Zionist occupation of all occupied Arab territory.

The two sides expressed their great concern over the continuing war between Iraq and Iran, which is wasting the resources of two neighboring Muslim countries. They persistently call for this war to be ended in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 598.

The two sides reaffirmed their absolute support for the struggle of the Namibian and South African people against colonialism and apartheid.

Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi expressed his thanks for the welcome and generosity shown to him and to his delegation by the brother President Zine El Abidine Bel Ali and the brotherly Tunisian people during his visit.

Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi extended an invitation to his brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to visit Libya. He accepted this invitation thankfully, and the date will be set later.

Bendjedid To Attend Memorial Ceremony 8 Feb

LD052133 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] At the invitation of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Chadli Bendjedid, president of Algeria, is to pay a visit to Tunisia on Monday, 8 February 1988, to mark the anniversary of the Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf [Tunisian border town bombed by the French in 1958] events.

Al-Qadhdhafi To Participate

LD081015 Paris International Service in French 0800 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Excerpt] This is a surprise: Colonel al-Qadhdhafi will be present at Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Tunisian President Ben Ali to take part in the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the French Air Force bombing of this small village situated on the Algerian-Tunisian border. [passage omitted]

Inter-Gulf Affairs

Iranian Gunboats Attack U.S.-Owned Tanker

NC070740 Paris AFP in English 0734 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Manama, Feb 7 (AFP)—Iranian gunboats attacked a U.S.-owned Liberian tanker early Sunday in the southern Gulf, regional shipping sources said.

The attack on the 64,000-ton "Diane" shortly after midnight (2129 GMT Saturday) triggered a fire which was rapidly brought under control, the sources said. Damage was light and no casualties were reported.

The "Diane," which flies the Liberian flag, is owned by the New York-based North American Ship Agencies.

The attack off the coast of Ra's al-Khaymah, a United Arab Emirate flanking the entrance to the Strait of Hormuz, was the first on a U.S.-owned tanker since the start of the year.

The U.S. Navy, which has some 30 warships in the Gulf region, only protects vessels which are registered in the United States, notably 11 Kuwaiti-owned tankers that have been reflagged with the Stars and Stripes since July. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Holds Talks With Al-Sabah

LD071834 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] In the continuation of his friendly visits to Arab countries, 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, this morning met with Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of Kuwait. The Afghan foreign minister informed the Kuwaiti side about the process of solving the situation around Afghanistan, the policy of national reconciliation and its values, and other political and social developments in the country.

With regard to respecting, protecting, and observing the sacred religion of Islam and all the measures taken toward this end by the revolutionary sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan, he said: The second article of the Afghan Constitution, which was recently approved by the historic Grand Assembly of the people of Afghanistan, declares Islam the religion of Afghanistan.

Also in this constitution of peace, the Republic of Afghanistan has been enshrined as a nonaligned country that does not join any military pacts and does not allow the construction of any foreign military bases on its territory.

In his conversations, the foreign minister emphasized the people and Government of Afghanistan's solidarity with and support for the rightful cause of the Palestinian people, including the formation of an independent Palestinian state in the occupied lands. The foreign minister also shared the Afghan Government's interest in further cooperation and mutually beneficial links with Kuwait in the spheres of culture, air transport, and Islamic education.

Reciprocally, the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister expressed thanks for the Afghan Government's position concerning the Palestinian people's cause and assured Kuwait's readiness to expand mutual bilateral cooperation.

The foreign ministers of both countries also discussed regional and international issues and [word indistinct] about the forthcoming meeting of the foreign ministers of Islamic countries, which is due to be held sometime later in Amman, the capital of Jordan. Also present at these talks was the Kuwaiti deputy minister of foreign affairs and the director of Asian and Middle East Affairs in Kuwait's Foreign Ministry.

Report on Wakil Interview

LD071951 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, was interviewed yesterday in Kuwait by Habib Siddiqi, editor of the ARAB TIMES. In this interview, the foreign minister explained the position of the Afghan Republic on the progress of the talks in Geneva. He said that in order to achieve a speedy, peaceful solution to the situation around Afghanistan, the Afghan delegation has participated with flexibility and political goodwill in all rounds of the Geneva negotiations between the Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan, conducted through Diego Cordovez, UN undersecretary general. Recently it was proposed to His Excellency Cordovez that the outcome of the coming round of these talks, to start on 20 February 1988, be final.

In this interview, the foreign minister strongly criticized the statement of General Ziaul Haq, the president of Pakistan, to a WASHINGTON POST reporter, in which he said he would not sign any agreement with Najibullah. The foreign minister said that General Ziaul Haq, through such unrealistic and irresponsible statements, is overlooking all the documents that have been agreed upon during several years of talks in Geneva, and he is denying a fact that is clear to everyone in the world.

In reply to a question by the editor of the ARAB TIMES on the formation of an interim government prior to the beginning of the departure of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan, as proposed by a declaration by the opponents, 'Abdul Wakil said: These statements have been made by the extremist opponent groups for 8 years.

However, they cannot and will never succeed. The revolutionary power of the Afghan Republic declared the policy of national reconciliation in January 1987. That policy calls for the formation of a coalition government of national unity, including all opposition leaders and even the seven-party alliance. Unfortunately, a number of groups within the seven-party alliance, who favor the continuation of war and bloodshed in the country, have not responded positively to the call.

When the foreign minister was asked whether Muhammad Zahir, the former king, would be acceptable to the present leadership of Afghanistan as the future leader of the country, he said: This depends on the role he plays in maintaining peace in the country. The leadership of the Afghan Republic has sincerely asked for the participation of not only Zahir, the former king, but also all political and social figures of Afghanistan who are living as refugees and who could play a role in the restoration of peace, to help in speeding up the process of maintaining peace in Afghanistan.

The foreign minister added that Zahir Shah can undoubtedly play a major role in this way. While he is acceptable to us, the leaders of the extremist opposition groups are creating obstacles and are opposed to any sort of role for Zahir Shah in our country's future. 'Abdul Wakil rejected the allegations of the Government of Pakistan, claiming that the agents of Afghanistan are responsible for explosions and terrorism in the major cities of Pakistan, in particular in the free tribes areas. He added that the Republic of Afghanistan, in accordance with its peace-seeking foreign policy, seriously pursues a policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, particularly neighboring countries, and is among the sincere supporters of the policy of peaceful coexistence. The bloody incidents and events in Pakistan are the result of the activities and internal struggles of the extremist elements that have made nests in Pakistan. In order to mislead the public opinion of Pakistan and international opinion as a whole, the government of Pakistan is trying in vain to distort facts and place the blame of political disruptions in Pakistan on the shoulders of others.

'Abdul Wakil added that the Republic of Afghanistan, in pursuance of its peace-loving policy, truly believes in the principle of peaceful coexistence, the policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, particularly neighboring countries, and desires the most noble friendly relations with Pakistan because Pakistan is one of our important neighbors.

PDRY

Al-Bid Hospitalized in Moscow for Surgery

JN062006 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 4 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Moscow, KUNA—According to Arab diplomatic sources in the Soviet capital, YSP Central Committee Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid is receiving medical treatment at a Moscow hospital. In a statement to KUNA the Arab sources said that Al-Bid, who will undergo surgery in the next 2 days, is in good health.

The Arab diplomatic sources expect Al-Bid, who arrived in Moscow a week ago, to leave the hospital in mid-February.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,010

JN051744 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,010 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 5 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Every day Iraq's brave men prove that they have the favorable judgment of their people and nation through their heroic confrontation of the Zionist Khomeyniites. The following is a roundup of the combat activities of our units for last night and today:

1. Units belonging to our brave formations in the I Army Corps northern sector killed 17 enemy personnel, destroyed 2 vehicles and 4 infantry positions, and blew up 3 ammunition dumps. Elsewhere in the same sector, our units engaged an enemy patrol, killed two of its personnel, wounded three others, and forced the rest to flee.

2. An enemy soldier was killed in the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

3. One scoundrel was killed and two observation posts and a machinegun emplacement were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. A heavy machinegun, an observation post, and a vehicle were destroyed, and an ammunition dump was blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. Our formations in the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris engaged the enemy positions in front of them with their weapons. They killed five scoundrels and destroyed six infantry positions, a raft, and a vehicle.

6. An observation post, a machinegun emplacement, and a Poclain excavator were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 February 1988

Communique No 3,011

JN061750 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,011 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 6 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With renewed morale and high combat standards, our victorious forces are continuing to carry out their heroic operations in various sectors. They are inflicting a severe punishment on the charlatan ruling clique in Iran. The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. In order to reinforce our victory over the enemies of our nation, the Zionist Khomeyniites, and to stress our ability to destroy the means of aggression, our heroic Air Force is continuing to pursue the enemy's maritime targets and to cut off its oil resources. The charlatans are exploiting these oil revenues to continue aggression against our country. At 2200 [1900 GMT] last night, our planes dealt an accurate and effective blow to a large maritime target near the Iranian coast. Our rapacious hawks flew 70 combat missions today, inflicting new losses on the enemy's personnel, weapons, and equipment. After carrying out these duties, all of our planes returned safely to their bases with God's care.

2. Our helicopter gunships flew 55 combat missions today to attack enemy concentrations, equipment, and weapons, inflicting new losses on the aggressors. All of our planes returned safely to base, God be praised.

3. Two enemy personnel were killed, two vehicles were destroyed, and one grader was damaged in the I Army Corps northern sector.

4. Six scoundrels were killed and one infantry position, one observation post, and two enemy machineguns were destroyed in the I Special Army Corps—Allahu Akbar Forces.

5. One enemy personnel was killed, two infantry positions were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

6. Two infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants were either killed or wounded in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

7. Three enemy personnel were killed and two infantry positions and one machinegun were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

8. One scoundrel was killed; one infantry position, one observation post, and one spg-9 gun were destroyed; and two ammunition dumps were blown up.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 February 1988

Lloyds Confirms Ship Hit

JN081612 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1552 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] London, 8 Feb (INA)—Britian's Lloyds Insurance Company said today that an Iranian cargo ship known as the "Iran Entekhab" sustained heavy damages as a result of an Iraqi air raid last Friday [5 February].

In a statement in London today, Roger Lewis, the official in charge of the department on ship damage information at Lloyds, explained that one crew member of the

Iranian ship had been killed as a result of the Iraqi air raid. Lloyds pointed out that the Iranian ship weighs 20,691 tonnes and was built in 1978.

Communique No 3,012

JN071217 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1153 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,012 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 7 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God be praised. Great Iraqis, your valiant Air Force has pounded the mainstays of the odious aggressor deep inside enemy territory and on remote islands in the Arabian Gulf. It has wiped out the remnants of rogues in all the battles which they, our valiant Armed Forces, had waged in defense of great Iraq and its honest citizens. Your Air Force, which has dealt and continues to deal successive blows against the enemy's oil supplies, records another feat today against despotism and the Shu'ubists who support it, on the anniversary of the revolution of the people and their Armed Forces under the leadership of our great party. Several of our aircraft headed toward Khark Island at 1030 [0730 GMT] today to once again deal it a blow to prevent the enemy from using this vital facility for exporting its oil and exploiting oil revenues for evil purposes. Our valiant hawks succeeded in penetrating the enemy air defenses and directed their destructive blows to Khark Island's oil terminals. After efficiently carrying out their duties, our hawks safely returned to base with their aircraft under God's protection.

May God bless our Air Force men—commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks. We thank God for this victory.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 February 1988

Communique No 3,013

JN071759 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,013 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 7 February]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The following is a roundup of the activities of our units for last night and today:

1. No matter what the tyrant Khomeyniites, the slaves of Zionism, attempt to do to harm the sovereignty of this lofty homeland, which proceeds on the path of justice and advocates peace, all their frustrated attempts will founder against the impregnable wall that is erected by the arms of our men and that will uproot evil and smash the evildoers. At 0730 [0430 GMT] today, the frustrated enemy dispatched one of its forces, estimated at one brigade, to approach our forward positions in the heroic II Army Corps central sector. Our valiant and intrepid men from the Great Badr Forces confronted them by opening intensive fire from all types of weapons. With God's help, and thanks to the determination of the loyal men, they wiped out most of the attacking force, captured others, while the rest fled, pursued by the Iraqi forces' intensive fire. The enemy's frustrated offensive was defeated, and the sitution was completely settled in favor of our victorious forces.

May God bless the men of the heroic Great Badr Forces and the II Army Corps—commanders, officers, and other ranks. We thank God, who supports the faithful.

2. The planes of our heroic air Force, which carried out the duty stated in our Communique No 3,012 issued today, and which also carried out other duties against the enemy units in the operational sectors, flew 80 combat missions today. All of our planes returned safely to their bases with God's care.

3. Our brave units in the I Army Corps northern sector dealt painful blows to the aggressors, killing 190 enemy personnel; capturing others; destroying 1 tank, 2 armored personel carriers, 5 machineguns, and 2 infantry positions; burning 12 vehicles; and blowing up 11 ammunition dumps.

4. Ten scoundrels were killed and seven infantry positions were destroyed in the I Special Army Corps—Allahu Akbar Forces.

5. Two enemy personnel were killed; one infantry position, one SPG-9 gun, and one big water pump were destroyed; and one enemy vehicle was burned in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. One scoundrel was killed, one single-barrel machinegun was destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

7. Four enemy personnel were killed and 10 infantry positions, 2 machineguns, and 1 106-mm gun were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

8. Three infantry positions, one machinegun, and one water pump were destroyed; one vehicle was burned; and one ammunition dump was blown up.

9. The criminal Iranian enemy shelled the township of Qal'at Dizah, including the Bimalik housing complex, with long-range artillery today. The shelling martyred one child and wounded nine civilians, including three children and three women. Mercy to our martyr and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 February 1988

Iran's 'Khark 5' Tanker Hit

JN080641 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Shipping sources in the Arabian Gulf have reported that a fire broke out on the Iranian oil tanker "Khark 5" during yesterday's Iraqi air raid on the major Iranian oil terminal at Khark Island. The sources said that the Iranian oil tanker was still ablaze 5 hours after the attack. They added that the 280,125-tonne tanker had sustained heavy losses.

The Armed Forces General Command announced at noon yesterday that our gigantic aircraft had penetrated enemy air defenses and dealt a destructive blow to the Khark Island oil terminals in an effort to prevent the enemy from using this vital facility for exporting its oil and exploiting its revenues for evil purposes.

Helicopter Downing Denied

JN061857 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Feb (INA)—In a statement to INA this evening, an Iraqi military spokesman denied Iranian allegations today that an Iraqi helicopter was downed during the past few days.

Al-Asad Said Willing To Discuss Golan Heights
TA070709 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel]

[Text] Richard Murphy started his Middle East tour this weekend. The U.S. Administration has allocated 2 months for a concerted diplomatic effort to be headed by Murphy, who is to conduct a shuttle operation between the capitals of the region. Washington is initiating and making efforts, but it is already possible to say that the chances for success are slim. Mubarak, Husayn, and Shamir welcome the U.S. involvement, but to their close associates they express their extremely skeptical assessments.

Over the weekend Jerusalem received a report on a talk conducted by President Mubarak in France. Mubarak told his interlocutor that he returned from the United States empty-handed. The U.S. initiative is not a plan that could be accepted by the Arab world, it is a nonstarter, an unrealistic plan. President Mubarak added that the impression received is that the United States is merely trying to fulfill its formal obligation.

Yesterday we were told by the prime minister's office that Shamir is not ready to accept a plan which calls for shortening the duration of the autonomy. The recent events in the territories prove there is no point in raising proposals regarding shortening the period of the interim arrangement, and there is no point in talking about facilitating negotiations on the final arrangement.

Against this background the recent signals from Damascus concerning Al-Asad's willingness to hold negotiations with Israel are particularly interesting. U.S. Senator Specter, who visited Damascus recently and met with Al-Asad, has told the Israeli Embassy in Washington that Al-Asad has expressed his willingness to speak with Israel within the framework of an international conference about the future of the Golan Heights without any connection to the Palestinian problem.

Polish Leader Hints at Possible Renewed Ties
TA051554 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Feb 88 p 1

[Report by Jerusalem correspondent Yoram Levi]

[Text] Polish leader General Jaruzelski transmitted a message to Israel hinting at a possible renewal in relations between the two countries in the near future.

The message was transmitted by Professor Jozef Gierowski, of Jagiellonski University in Krakow, who delivered it during the closing session of the international conference on the history and culture of Polish Jewry, which took place at Hebrew University's Mt Scopus campus in Jerusalem.

The message included the following statement: "The Polish authorities will publicize in the coming weeks an official announcement on the political mistakes made in 1967 and 1968. They will also denounce all forms of anti-Semitism and all types of discrimination, which contradict the tradition of Polish tolerance and Marxist ideology." Jaruzelski's announcement also said that the Polish authorities intend to encourage further research into the history of Polish Jewry and its contribution to Polish history in all aspects of life.

Peres Interviewed on Territories Negotiations
TA051810 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 5 Feb 88 pp 10, 11

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Ilan Kfir, Hanan Kristal, and Tzvi Gilat; date and place not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] You go to great lengths to declare that you will never talk to the PLO, although almost every other man in the territories says he is a PLO man. The question is: Can we perpetuate a situation in which we will never talk to the PLO?

[Peres] There are two possibilities: One is to talk to Jordan, the other is to talk to the PLO. In my opinion, the only feasible possibility is to talk to a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. As long as they carry Jordanian passports, they should not be surprised that we talk to the country of which they are citizens.

[Correspondent] That is an ostrich-like attitude. After all, is not every Palestinian leader in the territories saying that the PLO is his representative?

[Peres] Even if he says as much, is it my duty to check who he is representing? Is the Arab world based on representation? It is still built on domination. The PLO wants a Palestinian state and a Palestinian army which would be equipped with Soviet weapons 100 meters from the Israeli Knesset. I ask myself whether I can afford that or not, and in my opinion the answer is no.

[Correspondent] Are you not prepared to talk to them?

[Peres] I know what I want to tell them. Do they keep their mouthes shut because I do not talk to them? They talked to Husayn. They negotiated with him for over a year and reached an agreement, but when the time came to sign, they disappeared. So, why should I not learn from that experience? I look at the overall picture, which shows me that there definitely is a possibility of talking to Jordan or to a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Initially the PLO actually agreed to it but later it reneged on its agreement. Mubarak was asked who the Palestinians are, and he replied: Leave that to us. So, we leave that to them, to the Arabs.

[Correspondent] To whom? To the Palestinians, the Egyptians, and the Jordanians?

[Peres] To the Jordanians, the Egyptians, and the Palestinians. Trust them, they will find the representatives.

[Correspondent] Is Sinyurah acceptable to you?

[Peres] He is now acceptable to the entire Israeli Government.

[Correspondent] If so, then there is actually no problem.

[Peres] Maybe not. We do not judge Palestinians by their views, but rather by their authority. If we judge him by his views, Sinyurah may very well be a PLO man.

[Correspondent] Have you been holding a dialogue with Palestinians in the territories in the last few months?

[Peres] I have and I still am. The situation in the field is not as extreme as you describe it. Were the Palestinians asked which flag they would prefer, that of the PLO or that of Jordan, the majority would opt for the former. But if they were asked what would they like best, a Jordanian flag and an arrangement with Israel or the PLO's flag without any chance of an arrangement, many of them would reach the conclusion that an arrangement is no less important than the flag. Many of them would go along with Jordan, if the latter proved that it could put an end to their misery....

[Correspondent] Can Jordan do this?

[Peres] In my opinion, the difference between Jordan and the PLO is that with Jordan it is more difficult to start negotiations, but chances of arriving at an agreement are greater. On the other hand, with the PLO it is easier to start negotiations, but there are no chances of arriving at an agreement. So, what would be the sense of it?

[Correspondent] Is that all you have been hearing from Palestinian leaders in the territories?

[Peres] What I have said just now is my own analysis, which is based on what I know, what I have been hearing, and my own assessments. If you have a better suggestion....

[Correspondent] Is Shamir prepared to accept the first part of your proposal about negotiations?

[Peres] I do not know. I am not prepared to opine on what other people say.

[Correspondent] You were disturbed by the policy of nyets, and you disagreed with the advocate of that policy. All of a sudden, the nyets seem to have mellowed and Sharon and company have been left behind.

[Peres] I am very glad about that.

[Correspondent] If so, can you move forward?

[Peres] Sure.

[Correspondent] If the Likud says it is willing to start down the beginning of the road with you, will you be prepared to continue your partnership with it in the national unity government on the same basis?

[Peres] I am fighting for a policy, not for a party. I am fighting for an idea. I think time is taking its toll, both in demographic terms and as far as peace is concerned, and I do not think it will be easier to conduct negotiations in 5 or 10 years. Twenty years ago there were 300,000 inhabitants in Gaza, while today there are 650,000.

[Correspondent] According to forecasts, how many will there be in the year 2000?

[Peres] One million. Will it be easier then? Do things stand still?

[Correspondent] Not too long ago, there were once again calls in the Alignment to quit the government and hold early elections. Does the Alignment have any red lines which it will not cross? Under what circumstances would you quit the government?

[Peres] If we thought our departure would promote the peace process.

[Correspondent] When your peace initiative was blocked, did you have enough reason to quit the government and promote the process?

[Peres] No, you can see for yourselves that we have gone back to the political process. The Likud also understands that there is no alternative to taking the political path, and so does the United States. Imagine, if we were outside the government today there would have been no return to the political process.

[Correspondent] Wouldn't there have been more settlements?

[Peres] Perhaps there would have been more settlements.

[Correspondent] Wouldn't there have been a heavy-handed policy in the territories?

[Peres] Look, what is required at present is patience and we should not act nervously. We should allow the process to mature.

[Correspondent] Do you still have patience or are you tired? Once you looked more enthusiastic and energetic on this issue, whereas now you seem slightly tired.

[Peres] Do I look tired to you? Maybe it is because I went to sleep late.

[Correspondent] How do we solve the demographic problem? How do we get out of the demographic maze?

[Peres] By giving up the inhabitants in densely-populated areas. The problem is not whether to give up the territories, but whether we will give up the inhabitants. What is Gaza all about: territory or people?

[Correspondent] But what do we do in practice?

[Peres] We do not annex Gaza. Instead, we reach an agreement with Jordan about the future of Gaza and of some of the densely-populated areas, and we retain Jerusalem.

[Correspondent] And what about the IDF? Does the IDF stay out of the Arab-populated centers?

[Peres] I do not want to go into that.

[Correspondent] It is 9 months before the elections. Do you intend to conduct a U.S.-style election campaign, that is, not just one party versus another, but one candidate for the premiership versus another?

[Peres] No matter how the election campaign is conducted the people will have to make a choice. If the majority gives its vote to a coalition of the Likud and the religious parties, we know exactly where that will lead. If the majority gives its vote to a coalition headed by us, the situation will be different. This choice will be the key theme of the election campaign.

[Correspondent] This and not the candidate?

[Peres] I did not say that, but top priority will go to this issue. On the other hand, there is no doubt that each of the candidates will run on his past record. I see no reason why one should be ashamed of one's record.

[Correspondent] What will happen if the Likud's coalition wins and what if the Alignment's coalition wins?

[Peres] In my opinion, if the Likud's coalition wins we will go back to the establishment of settlements and to endangering Israel's Jewish character. The Likud will back the religious parties in every religious demand, while the latter will give in to the Likud in every political aspect.

[Correspondent] What actually bothers you most of all at present?

[Peres] What bothers me is the thought that if we do not escape the cycle of war—not necessarily shooting wars, but preparations for war—we will nevertheless have to pay a price. If you figure it out you will see that the cost of weapons has increased 100 times since World War II. Customers cannot afford that, and this is one of the reasons for the rise of the superpowers. In the 1950's we bought aircraft that cost us $150,000 to $200,000, whereas today we buy various aircraft that cost $30 million, an increase of 200 times.

[Correspondent] The cost might get as high as $60 million.

[Peres] It might also get to $100 million. Where are we going to get this money from? I would like to ask Tehiya or the Council of Settlements in Judaea and Samaria: Who is going to pay for it? The next U.S. Administration?

[Correspondent] You get around the country. Do you notice a different mood today among the people you meet?

[Peres] Without exception, the message is one of support and love.

[Correspondent] Do you hear demands for an immediate solution to the problem of the territories?

[Peres] Today people pay more serious attention to this matter than ever before.

[Correspondent] After 20 years, are people beginning to realize that there is a problem?

[Peres] There are these people and there are others, there are all sorts of groups. The rightwing is shifting further to the right. Former Likud members have moved to Tehiya and later to Kahane's movement. I do not know of any people in our party who have crossed the lines. There is radicalization in both directions. I do not discern a basic change in the political map, but if there is one—then it is in our direction.

[Correspondent] I heard you say at Tel Aviv University that you have the feeling that the majority supports your positions, but 2 weeks later I saw the results of the elections in Tel Aviv University [student union] with my own eyes.

[Peres] That proves nothing.

[Correspondent] What will happen in the next few months?

[Peres] These will definitely be 9-10 dramatic months, both in terms of the chances for a dialogue and the risks. I do not get worked up about polls. What is more, they are not that bad as far as we are concerned. But this does not swing me either way. They merely introduce a new dynamic dimension to the situation. More and more people will start realizing that the time has come to make a decision. I think nobody will be sorry if we get the country out of the cycle of all-out wars.

[Correspondent] What is the difference between you and the Likud?

[Peres] The Likud is in favor of a status quo and the annexation of the territories, even though the latter involves the annexation of people. The attempt to distinguish between people and territory is fanciful. The transfer is not a plan; the autonomy is not a plan either and it will not last. We strive for a political solution which will enable us and the Palestinian inhabitants to live in peace and with dignity.

[Correspondent] The feeling is that the United States now intends to seek a plan that will also be acceptable to Shamir.

[Peres] Let them go ahead and find one. I will be very glad if the Americans find a plan that is acceptable both to Shamir and the Arabs. Shamir wants all the territories and the option to annex them, and we want exactly the opposite. What can the Americans do about that? They can only speed up the political process and express their opinion, and their opinion is not that of the Likud.

[Correspondent] Do you think Israel is currently facing a different, unprecedented situation?

[Peres] The only difference is that we thought the open bridges policy would last longer. This time, however, we are not dealing with the PLO and Jordan but with the people themselves. The incidents were not organized by the PLO and Jordan, but were spontaneous and erupted from within. This coincidence of events may be described as an unprecedented situation.

[Correspondent] Perhaps the leaders of the stone throwers can become the leaders of peace?

[Peres] They must be elected and prove themselves.

[Correspondent] Will you allow them to be elected?

[Peres] Every elected person upholds democratic views.

[Correspondent] Actually, who is there to talk to you?

[Peres] There are people there to talk to, including elected mayors of public stature. Look at the picture: We know the known leaders, but we do not know the unknown ones. If they are not known, then they are not leaders. I cannot go and talk to the leaders of a little village. That is what the Biblical Samuel did with Saul: He found a leader. That happens only once in history. His was not a democratic society, but then Samuel was a prophet.

Shultz 'Deluding Himself' With Peace Initiative

TA051129 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
5 Feb 88 p 15

[Commentary by Hagay Eshed: "One Compromise for Twice the Cost"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is one of Israel's greatest friends. Nonetheles, if he is not deliberately misleading Yitzhaq Shamir then he must truly be mistaken about the way to achieve an Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian peace, just as he was mistaken approximately 4 years ago about the way to achieve an Israeli-Lebanese-Syrian peace agreement.

At that time, Shultz invested time and effort in reaching a peace agreement between Israel and Lebanon, with the hope—totally groundless and incomprehensible—that Syria would follow suit. What a mistake! What an illusion! What bitter disappointment! What a perilous U.S. failure, fraught with danger for the entire Middle East, not only Lebanon! Instead of peace, Shultz ended up with the Syrians giving the United States a good kick in the ass—forgive my language—that it sent it flying out of Lebanon, and not only Lebanon.

Instead of the United States ousting Syria from Lebanon, it was Syria that ousted the United States. The U.S. Marines, the gigantic "New Jersey" warship, and all other U.S. personnel left Lebanon with their tales between their legs. The United States' influence and status as the major superpower in the entire Middle East have been marred and weakened since that time and have come to naught.

Regrettably, it now transpires that Shultz has not learned from his mistakes. He is again deluding himself that it is possible to act without the USSR, without the Soviet Union restraining Syria and getting something appropriate in return. Shultz is returning to the Israeli-Arab arena with the same mistaken approach and with the help of the same envoy who failed at the time—Philip Habib.

The truth is that the two affairs are linked by cause and effect. The United States' defeat at the hands of Syria in the Lebanese arena is the reason why Jordan is not prepared to ignore the Syrian threat in all its moves vis-a-vis Israel. Since that time, Jordan knows that the U.S. umbrella is insufficient and cannot protect it from Syria. It knows that against Syria it needs a Soviet umbrella.

In the end, Husayn will not give up his demand for the incorporation of the Soviets in any Middle Eastern arrangement. Still, why should he reject Shultz' proposal that this be preceded by exclusive U.S. mediation between him and Yitzhaq Shamir? Husayn can think to himself: Let Yitzhaq Shamir give in to the Americans first. Let them get from him as much as they can with regard to the conditions of "full autonomy."

The USSR will enter the picture at a later stage, at Husayn's insistence. As stated above, he will make his agreement to any arrangement with Israel conditional on this, leaving the Americans with no choice but to make additional concessions to the Soviets at Husayn's insistence. The Americans themselves may be covert partners to this two-stage scenario. The Americans will try to extort these additional concessions—designed to incorporate the Soviets in the agreement and thus protect it—from Yitzhaq Shamir.

If the Americans do not succeed in dragging Yitzhaq Shamir along after them to additional concessions—no need! King Husayn can wait until after the U.S. and Israeli elections, when he may have better interlocutors both in Washington and in Jerusalem. The situation in the territories will also be working in his favor until that time.

Israel's prestige will fall in the eyes of its friends in the United States, in the administration, in Congress, and in both Jewish and non-Jewish public opinion. The United States will then be more fertile ground for exerting pressure on Israel, without fearing too heavy a price. And, incidentally, the Palestinians in the territories will also be worn out by IDF actions against them and by the growing hatred of the Israeli public, or at least of the IDF soldiers who are getting sicker and sicker of the Palestinian war of harassment.

The actions of the soldiers and low-ranking officers point to growing hatred of those who throw the stones and Molotov cocktails and who taunt them with catcalls. The price the Palestinians are paying is increasing in direct proportion to that being paid by the Israelis, and if this continues it will culminate in a major blowup that will require a different kind of involvement by the UN Security Council, as well as by the United States and the USSR together and separately. Husayn will then be able to appear as a savior in the eyes of the Palestinians, whose economy will be in ruins and and whose body will be battered and broken. This, too, can happen.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will learn fast that this political method, to get an agreement on substance before an agreement on procedure, is mistaken and fraught with danger. His autonomy proposals are too little, too late for the Jordanians, the Egyptians, and the Palestinians.

As for his colleagues in the Herut leadership, and Tehiya and Gush Emunim members, these proposals are too much, too soon. Yitzhaq Shamir's concessions are now preceding any concessions by Jordan, Egypt, or the Soviet Union. It is for this reason that Shamir had to get himself entangled in fallacious denials causing concern in Washington.

In contrast, in following Shim'on Peres' technique of putting procedure before substance, Israel has already received quite a few Soviet and Jordanian advances. It should be remembered: King Husayn's advancement was in the form of the "London agreement" achieved in April 1987, in which he undertook to have only bilateral negotiations regarding the Israel-Arab conflict. Connected to this was the U.S. agreement of understanding which solidifies this undertaking vis-a-vis Israel. The Soviet advancements were in the sphere of easing the immigration of "refuseniks" and prisoners of Zion, and in the sphere of improving political relations with Israel, directly as well as by allowing East European countries to do so. The above helped create the general international atmosphere of giving credit to Israel as a peace-seeking country. Look at how the entire world treated us only yesterday and how it is treating us now, and for nothing!

The Shamir people claim that King Husayn is interested in the international conference because it will exert more pressure on Israel than will the Americans. The Shamir people do not take the two-phase pressure scenario into account, as stated. More importantly, they do not understand that without Soviet participation, there will be no value to any Middle East agreement. The Syrians will fight against it with the support of the Soviets who will also be interested in torpedoing any such agreement. They have the ability to do this despite the illusion of Shamir, and perhaps also of Shultz, that it is possible to reach agreements in the Middle East without the Soviets.

The late prime minister Levi Eshkol once responded to those who were critical of him for being a compromising person: Everyone is enamored of his own compromises. This is also frequently true for radicals who have to agree to some compromise against their will. They treat the compromise—the achievement of which they are a party—in a positive manner. They describe it as a proposal or a plan, as if it were initiated by them rather than imposed on them. This is also true for the Jordanians and the Soviets. They made a lot of compromises when they were partners to the process leading to the convening of an international conference, and it is reasonable to assume that they would have done so to ensure its success later as well.

On the other hand, when the Soviets are not a party to this process, they threaten to torpedo it, as Yevgeniy Primakov, the Soviet expert for Middle East affairs, informed U.S. diplomats in the course of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit talks. "Even if a separate deal between Israel and Jordan is crowned with success it will be 'blown up' by the Palestinians and the Syrians, just like the Lebanese agreement in 1982," the Soviet expert warned. Shultz may or may not have forgotten this, but there is no reason to assume that Husayn has forgotten. Israel must not forget this either since it will be the one who will be required to pay a double price for a single compromise: A first price for the Americans and a second for the Soviets so that they do not "blow up" the agreement which will be achieved, if it is achieved, via the Americans.

Mitzna' Views 'Tough' Policy Toward Unrest

TA061122 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Interview with Major General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, by correspondent in the territories Arye Gus, date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Gus] Gen Mitzna', tomorrow or the day after will mark the end of 2 months of riots, of what the Arabs term an uprising or civil uprising. How do you define the present situation?

[Mitzna'] As you said, it must be 2 months now since the beginning of the events. Although at first we expected the riots to end sooner, for many various reasons they have lasted longer than we had expected. My assessment today, however, is that they will not cease tomorrow morning. This is not something that can be stopped with one wave of the magic wand, and we cannot wait with a stopwatch for it to end. Various actions must be taken to make it absolutely clear to the residents that in no way will we let violence have a field day in the streets and on the roads.

As you know, in Judaea and Samaria there are 18 refugee camps, but we only hear of 4 or 5. You, who perhaps have been around for many years and are more attuned to events, may have heard of several more. Conditions in some refugee camps are a result of our treatment. Some of the small towns, and I would not like to name them so as not to encourage or help anyone, have received this treatment, and they are quiet.

We had several isolated cases of villages which had sampled our tough policy, whose mukhtars then came to us and said: Let us take care of the situation, we will get you anyone you want, we will clean up the village, only please do not come inside. We had an example of this last week: The men we wanted were brought out to us, the place was cleared, and there was no reason for us to go into that village.

[Gus] Gen Mitzna', this week you began incorporating reserve soldiers in the regular IDF deployment in Judaea and Samaria. Are you satisfied with their performance?

[Mitzna'] We have been using reservists all along. It is true that perhaps we use them more extensively now. Look, a reservist is not an 18-year old soldier, and naturally his ability is less in anything connected with physical fitness. It has its effect. You can see it in action. At the same time, the reserve units I have met—and I have talked to many soldiers of a reserve battalion whose service we extended between 7 and 10 days instead of the 3 days they had been called up for—and I feel these are motivated men who understand what is required of them. I have no doubt that they will do what has to be done, subject to some limitations.

[Gus] In those meetings, did you hear manifestations of skepticism, doubts, or refusal to serve in the territories?

[Mitzna'] No, I have not. There may be such manifestations, but I have not encountered them in my meetings. Quite the opposite. I suppose they exist too. After all, the nation is made up of different people.

[Gus] There are signs that the civilian system in Judaea and Samaria is beginning to totter: the municipalities, the public services workers. Is this a new aspect?

[Mitzna'] Look, Arye, in these 2 months we attempted to take actions appropriate to the situation. That is, we did not do anything yesterday that did not have to be done yesterday, and we are not doing anything today that may become necessary a week from now. The intention in all this is to allow normal life to continue with all the civilian systems and the various services intact. If it does not work, then there will be no normal life.

There will be no schools if the schools are not quiet. It is in my interests that the schools stay open and that they are quiet. But if things develop as they did this week—and that is one of the reasons, by the way, for the recent increase in events, the fact that we opened the schools—then there will be no schools. If we reach the stage where municipalities and the various systems that are supposed to extend services to the public cannot function properly, then the Arab public will be the first to suffer.

[Gus] Then we will be playing into their hands, since this would invite international pressures which I doubt Israel can withstand for a long period.

[Mitzna'] Israel will be able to withstand anything for a long period if it does what it believes is right. I believe we have no other choice. We must restore order and quiet to the area, without any connection to the political solutions. We will have to do it, and I think cracks in the so-called firm stand are beginning to show here and there.

If the residents realize we have patience, that we have no intention of fighting in defense of their public services—and I already have several examples of that, it may take some time to create more such examples—then this is what will happen.

[Gus] Can you indicate some examples?

[Mitzna'] I do not want to point out examples, because they could be used later as a rallying point and basis for incitement and instigation, but they do exist. It is true that the cracks are still very small and narrow. Our assessment has not changed: These people are not organized, they are threatened and incited by a crowd that does not know what it wants, by young people who in most places are still successful in threatening, inciting, and bringing about the activities we are seeing in the field.

[Gus] Gen Mitzna', are you convinced that there is a military solution or one involving the use of force to end the present situation in Judaea and Samaria? Perhaps it is time for the army to come to the political ranks and say: Gentlemen, no more, the time for a political solution has arrived?

[Mitzna'] No, there is no such thing. I believe the solution lies in a combination of the army, the security forces, and the political channels. We know how to do our part, although of course we cannot do all we want because of the different restrictions laid down by the need to operate in this kind of territory, with such a civilian population, with the whole world watching. This is also the reason for our inability to terminate this affair quickly. We will do our part in restoring quiet and order to the area, and the other systems will have to do theirs.

[Gus] And are they?

[Mitzna'] I am not the person to mete out critical remarks, whether good or bad.

[Gus] Gen Mitzna', I have accompanied you for 2 months now, since the beginning of the riots. Sometimes I have the impression that you wish to say much, much more than you allow yourself.

[Mitzna'] I have the reputation of one who says what is on his mind, but of course there are things I cannot say, holding the position I do. But I have no problem with this.

PLO Objective, Success in Territories Detailed

TA071557 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Feb 88 p 9

["The PLO's Operational Aim"—second installment in a series of commentaries by Ze'ev Schiff: "The War of the Territories: Lessons and Conclusions"]

[Text] Notwithstanding the fact that the unrest in the territories continues, leaders and experts have already begun to develop a theory to excuse their failure. They say: What is happening in the territories is proof of the total failure of the PLO's armed struggle concept. It reflects the despair of the Palestinians in the territories with the PLO and the Arab countries. In other words, others are to blame for the failure, not Israel.

True, the PLO did not organize or initiate the riots and it was also surprised by the developments, but one must not forget that this is first and foremost a rebellion against Israel and the occupation, and not against the PLO.

The fact is that all the organizations in the territories which are usually divided by disputes, united against Israel. Although it does not yet have the local leaders of the rebellion under its control, the PLO is already reaping the fruits of victory, particularly in the international arena. This is the PLO's success and Israel's failure. The authors of the exculpatory theory say that even if the PLO wanted, it is doubtful that it could put an end to the riots. But this is merely an academic question.

First of all, the PLO does not want to put an end to the riots. Secondly, it is only a question of time before it attains greater coordination among the leaders of the rebellion in the territories. The latter see Israel, and not the PLO, as their enemy. At most, the PLO is an antagonist of some of the leaders in the territories and of the riots.

The argument about the armed struggle is less than weak. Indeed, the Palestinian armed struggle has been curbed. We dealt terrorism a decisive blow, but the Palestinians cleverly embraced a new form of struggle to which we have as yet no answer. This is a success for the Palestinians.

We did not heed the warnings to this effect. We failed to foresee that the other side would adopt a new system which our military might would be totally inadequate to tackle. This was not foreseen by either military intelligence, the coordinator of activities in the territories, or the Shin Bet. Although the latter was given the task of gathering intelligence about riots during Moshe Arens' tenure as defense minister, it was satisfied with gathering tactical intelligence since Shin Bet senior officials had misgivings about assuming additional responsibilities.

The Palestinians managed to find an efficient operational answer when the previous form of their struggle was curbed. Therefore, we should not blame others for our own failures. The PLO scored several impressive accomplishments in 2 months. Its most outstanding achievement lies in the international arena. It realized, before Israel did, that the struggle is about politics and public relations and not about confronting tanks. The PLO succeeded in extricating itself from a prolonged political depression and taking the political initiative. The inhabitants of the territories and the PLO succeeded in putting the Palestinian issue back at the top of the political agenda, and not just that of the United Nations which has for a long time been an Arab "playground."

Israel is lagging behind the PLO as far as propaganda and public relations are concerned. The Palestinians managed to recruit many delegations from various countries to visit the territories. Delegations of parliamentarians, physicians, psychologists, lawyers, and civil rights organizations have been coming to check the situation in the territories and in Israel and have been taking back bleak reports. These delegations usually include Jews, a fact which in itself should also be held in the PLO's credit. The PLO managed to mobilize the press in various parts of the world, printing all sorts of publications and relaying information from the territories with impressive speed.

A new propaganda operation lying in store for us is the "Palestinian exodus." The Palestinians want to cast the Israelis as the British occupiers of 1988, expelling the poor devils who want to return to their homeland. Small wonder that to this end they are also looking for Israelis who took part in pre-state illegal immigration operations. The PLO has also been collecting medicines, food, and money. For the time being, it has only been marginally successful in this area.

The PLO scored another achievement in the wake of the riots by inciting Israel's Arabs, deepening their Palestinian identity, and increasing their support for their brethren in the territories. There is no doubt that we should expect a deepening of the relationship between the PLO and part of Israel's Arab community.

The Palestinians also managed to embarrass the Arab countries. Jordan's supporters in the territories laid low and were even further weakened. Although Jordan, like Syria, does not highlight the PLO's role in the riots, it has been forced to support the rebellion and to denounce Israel. Egypt has been embarrassed the most of all because it is being accused of letting Israel, under cover of the Camp David Accords, spill the blood of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Despite Jordan's and Egypt's fears that the demonstrations of support for the Palestinians would be exploited by the opposition in their countries, it is obvious that the Arab countries are pleased with what is happening because Israel has been weakened and its army is very busy with policing duties. All these impressive achievements have created a new situation, and it would be ridiculous to turn things upside down and argue that what we are witnessing is the failure of the armed struggle or, in other words, the failure of the PLO.

The immediate operational goal of the PLO as far as the rebellion is concerned is to create a situation where the IDF loses control in parts of the territories. It could not care less that to this end the IDF might use force and inflict many casualties among the inhabitants, because this would promote its demand/goal of stationing international observers or troops in the territories in order to protect the Palestinians from the IDF.

To this end the PLO must maintain and stoke the flame of the rebellion and not let it die down. Even if political negotiations start it will not give up so as not to let Jordan reap the fruits of the rebellion at a later stage. In this context, the PLO may take action to prevent Palestinian workers from going to their jobs in Israel even if this causes a great deal of suffering to the population. This is why the PLO will do everything it can, with the help of the Arab countries and other supporters, to funnel funds to the territories as soon as possible in order to stoke the flames of the rebellion. For its part, Israel will probably do everything it can to prevent the money trickling in through various clandestine ways from getting to the PLO's supporters in the territories and among Israel's Arabs.

Cabinet Hears 'Bleak' Reports on Unrest

TA071245 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Defense Minister Rabin, Police Affairs Minister Bar-Lev, and Chief of Staff Dan Shomron reported to the Cabinet today on the incidents toward the end of the week in Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip, and the Jerusalem area.

Ministers told our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that the reports were bleak, and that for the first time, the chances for a return of calm were not discussed.

Transport Minister Hayim Corfu reported on the damage caused to public transportation and roads in the areas of unrest. He said that traffic in these areas is continuing as normal.

The Inner Cabinet began a meeting after the Cabinet session.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1130 GMT on 7 February reports: "At today's Cabinet meeting, Yitzhaq Shamir rejected Minister Tzur's request for a political debate prior to Richard Murphy's arrival in Israel. The prime minister said the stone throwers in the territories must not be permitted to decide Israel's foreign policy, and Murphy's visit does not call for special decisions."]

Mordekhay Warns Gazans on Further Violence

TA071957 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Interview with Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Southern Command, by unidentified correspondent in Khan Yunus on 7 February—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Mordekhay] There has been relative quiet in the Gaza Strip during the past few weeks following a wave of disturbances. I hope that some of the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip realize that the path of violence does not pay. It only leads to the deployment of forces, and the employment of measures which make life harder for them. I hope there will be quiet, at least relatively, since in the wake of the calm we will all be able to go on with ordinary life.

[Correspondent] In the wake of this quiet, will more and more Arabs detainees be released?

[Mordekhay] Last week I met Gaza Strip notables, and as promised, I released 100 detainees. I plan to release another group of detainees this week, and I certainly plan to implement part of the promises I made to the notables.

[Correspondent] To what extent does the atmosphere surrounding the ongoing negotiations have an influence on the quiet in the Gaza Strip?

[Mordekhay] The situation in the territories, especially in the Gaza Strip, is very fragile. Following the wave of incidents, the region has become calmer, but it is still not completely quiet. All the factors projecting on the area have an impact on it, either in the direction of security and calm or in stirring up the area. Thus, such an event certainly has an influence on the region. The region is not indifferent to what is happening around it.

[Correspondent] Do you believe some sort of leadership, with whom negotiations can take place, might emerge in the Gaza Strip?

[Mordekhay] I believe that one day a leadership will emerge here in the Gaza Strip, but at present there are only initial signs of this. If a leadership emerges with whom a dialogue can be held and these talks will also be influential in the field, there is no doubt it will be one of the positive outcomes of the bad situation which evolved in the Gaza Strip.

[Correspondent] At the same time, can it be said that there has been a drop in the activities of Islamic Jihad, of the religious groupings here in the Gaza Strip?

[Mordekhay] I do not think there has been a drop. On the contrary, the religious elements, the Islamic Mujama', and Islamic Jihad, have strengthened. I would like to hope, and I said as much to the religious leaders, that they should deal only with religion. I respect religious rituals. I would like very much to hope that the religious elements will not take part in other events, but will devote themselves to religion.

[Correspondent] Can we say that they are taking an active part in the Unified National Command of the Uprising or the organized group that is behind the latest events?

[Mordekhay] I do not know if they participate in the organized group, but there is no doubt that they are active in some of the events. They are active in distributing leaflets, and attempts by some to stir up certain events in the field.

[Correspondent] How serious is the use of arms, or the possible use of arms, by demonstrators in the Gaza Strip?

[Mordekhay] I hope there will not be such a phenomenon. The use of arms in the Gaza Strip in the past was for terrorist purposes and sabotage, and we coped with it successfully. Inhabitants of the Gaza Strip must understand that any attempt to use firearms will lead to unequivocal action by the security forces. I would not advise any of them to take such a risk because it would mean grave and unequivocal steps against the person or persons who carry arms and try to use them.

[Correspondent] Do you believe the current military presence in the Gaza Strip will remain there for many weeks to come?

[Mordekhay] The level of forces is decided on according to the circumstances. The necessary troops will be deployed there as long as the situation requires them to maintain law and order. Nobody in the Gaza Strip should delude himself that he can achieve anything by force. The IDF is big, powerful. It has not deployed even a small percentage of its might. It would be a pity if the IDF had to use its might to make life difficult for the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip, and I have told them as much.

More Disturbances Reported in Territories

3 Wounded by IDF Fire

TA051741 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] There were several disturbances in Judaea and Samaria this afternoon. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that two inhabitants of the village of Salim near Elon More were slightly wounded when a group of inhabitants tried to block the road. An IDF force tried to disperse the demonstrators with tear gas and rubber bullets, but they continued to throw stones. The soldiers then used small caliber rifles, lightly wounding two inhabitants in the legs.

A girl was slightly wounded in the leg in the village of Huwwarah south of Nabulus by shots fired by a driver whose vehicle was stoned. It is not clear if the driver fired deliberately or the bullet was discharged accidentally.

Before dusk, a Molotov cocktail was thrown at an Israeli vehicle near the settlement of Pesagot on the outskirts of Al-Birah. Nobody was hurt, but the vehicle was slightly damaged.

The curfew on the village of Bani Na'im was lifted this afternoon.

'Blockade' on Qalandiyah

TA052107 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Security forces imposed a blockade this evening on part of the Qalandiyah refugee camp north of Jerusalem following disturbances. Three Arab inhabitants, including a little girl, were slightly wounded in other incidents in Judaea and Samaria.

'Severe' Riots in Silwan

TA061228 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Disturbances have occurred in the vicinity of Jerusalem: 'Anatot in north Jerusalem and Silwan in its east are quiet now, following severe riots. In the village of Silwan, residents blocked the main roads with burning tires and dumpsters, and hurled stones at policemen. After the crowds were dispersed, a municipality tractor moved the stones that were used for the barricade to the side streets, thus blocking them to the rioters.

Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that a similar method was used in 'Anatot. Dozens of youths were dispersed earlier with tear gas, a police armored vehicle, and a helicopter.

In 'Isawiyah on Mount Scopus stones were thrown at the road leading to Ma'ale Adummim. Tires were set on fire in the Arab part of the Abu Tor neighborhood.

5 Wounded in W. Bank 6 Feb

TA061813 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Five local inhabitants were injured today in disturbances in Judaea and Samaria: two in the village of Jayyuz in the Qalqilyah area, two in the village of Bani Na'im near Hebron, and one in Tubas in Samaria. In all instances, IDF troops opened fire after the crowds refused to disperse even after tear gas grenades and rubber bullets were fired at them.

Curfews remain in force in several locations in Judaea and Samaria, including the towns of Nabulus and Tulkarm.

Quiet prevailed in the Gaza Strip, except for a few incidents in which stones were thrown and tires were set on fire in the city of Gaza and in Khan Yunus. A full commercial strike was observed in both locations.

Woman Dies in Al-'Arrub Riot

TA070547 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] A woman from the Al-'Arrub refugee camp north of Hebron was killed last night after hundreds of the camp's inhabitants attacked an IDF force and tried to block the main road. A curfew has been imposed on the camp.

In the Al-Am'ari refugee camp near Ramallah there were also serious disturbances, and a Molotov cocktail was thrown at an IDF patrol. A curfew was imposed for several hours there.

In 'Anata, north Jerusalem, approximately 600 people rioted and a youth tried to attack a border police officer with a knife. The officer opened fire and the youth escaped. The rioters threw a Molotov cocktail and a smoke grenade toward a Coca-Cola warehouse near 'Anata and tried to march toward Pisgat Ze'ev. The police dispersed them with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Several hundred policemen raided 'Anata last night and carried out searches there. Approximately 1 hour ago a curfew was imposed in the 'Anata camp, which is being surrounded by a large police presence.

Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that over the last 24 hours six people suspected of riots have been detained in Jerusalem, and more arrests are expected. The Jerusalem police commander told the Voice of Israel that due to the serious disturbances the police forces in Jerusalem will continue to be reinforced.

The mayor of Tulkarm has complained that due to the curfew in the town the residents have run out of food. He asked the mayor of Al-Tira to help in food shipments, and apparently the aid will be sent today. In reaction to this our correspondent Arye Gus was told that occasional breaks in the curfew occur to enable the residents to purchase food. On Thursday there was such a break in the town of Tulkarm. Yesterday there was one in the adjacent refugee camp.

In the Al-Shati' and Al-Burayj refugee camps in the Gaza area and in the area of Khan Yunus tires were burned and stones were thrown last night. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that this morning only a few Gaza workers left for their work in Israel after pamphlets calling for a strike were distributed in the Gaza Strip yesterday.

Youth Dies of Shooting Wounds

TA070610 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Excerpt] A 10-year old boy from the village of Burqa' in Samaria has died of wounds sustained during last week's disturbances in the village. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the boy was hit by the ricochet of a bullet fired by IDF soldiers at rioting residents. [passage omitted]

3 Dead, 1 Wounded Near Hebron

TA071137 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Three dead and one wounded from Bayt Immar near Hebron were brought to the hospital in Hebron after the IDF dispersed riots in the village. The IDF is looking into the circumstances of the death of the three people from Bayt Immar. Our correspondent 'Ofer Bardugo reports that local youths tried to get to the main road, and the IDF drove them back into the village. As said, three dead and one wounded were brought to the hospital in Hebron following the incident.

2 Wounded in Gaza; Jerusalem Riot

TA071548 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] The police and border police dispersed demonstrators from the village of Jabal al-Mukabar who rioted in one of the streets in East Talpiyyot in Jerusalem. The demonstrators burned tires, threw stones, and raised a Palestinian flag. Shlomo Berger, a correspondent for the English program, reports that security forces used tear gas, fired rubber bullets, and arrested three of the demonstrators.

A resident of Khan Yunus in the Gaza Strip was wounded by IDF fire. He was part of a 300-strong group which tried to mob soldiers while hurling stones at them.

A resident of Gaza was brought to the local hospital with a gunshot wound, but the circumstances of the injury have not yet been determined. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that there were relatively minor incidents in the Gaza Strip today. Roads were blocked with stones, and burning tires, and stones were thrown at Israeli civilian and military vehicles.

Paper Surveys Reactions to U.S. Proposals

JN070910 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Feb 88 pp 1, 5

[By Lamis K. Andoni and Najwa Najjar]

[Text] Amman—As the Palestinian uprising continues in the occupied West Bank and Gaza there are indications that the U.S. may launch a fresh initiative to reinvigorate efforts for peace in the Middle East. So far, there have been conflicting reports on the substance of the intended American moves.

Regardless of the contents and the nature of the new American ideas, analysts and politicians express strong scepticism over Washington's intention and willingness to draw closer to the Arab demands for a just settlement of the Palestinian question. Some even express the view that any American move would aim at "containing the uprising and strengthening the Israeli stand."

Most analysts interviewed by the JORDAN TIMES brushed aside the possibility that the Americans could present an even-handed formula, but some believed that the recent developments have led the U.S. to consider new ideas acceptable to all sides involved in the conflict.

Over the last two weeks reports in the Israeli and American press stated that the U.S. was putting forth new proposals to revive the Middle East process.

According to most of these reports, the "new American initiative" is based on the 1978 Camp David peace treaty between Egypt and Israel in that it refocuses the attention on the concept of "self-rule" for the 1.5 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

Although the nature of the American "ideas" has not been clarified yet, contacts made by the JORDAN TIMES with Western diplomats and Jordanian officials and a reading of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's testimony to Congress last week indicate that the main principles of the new American move appear to be as under:

—The U.S. is trying to combine new and old ideas in order to blend a new workable formula for peace in the Middle East.

—Since the procedure and forms of negotiations have been a point of difference among the parties involved, the new formula will focus on "substance" rather than procedure.

This means, according to one diplomat, the focus of American contacts with the various parties involved is on "what the whole process would lead to."

In other words, it seems that the Americans are seeking the approval of the parties involved on the final goal of negotiations rather than the negotiating procedures.

—American officials refuse to disclose much about the substance except that "it is not self-rule by itself"; thus it is not simply a variation of Camp David, but a more advanced formula.

—According to Western diplomatic sources, the Palestinian aspiration to end the occupation as expressed by the uprising is taken into consideration by Washington.

A former Jordanian diplomat who follows American politics very closely said that the new signals coming from Washington indicated a change in the American approach to the peace process. "Until recently the Americans were concentrating on the process itself, while Arab countries were more concerned with what the negotiations would lead to," said the former diplomat, who asked not to be named.

In his view, what has been disclosed so far about the new American ideas "fits very well with Shultz's perception of the situation in the region and with his understanding of the mechanism of a peace process."

The former diplomat pointed out that the main principles which defined American position of the peace process had been the following:

First, that the solution should come from the area. "The American government have repeatedly implied that it was going to react and act," he noted.

The second factor is that American officials, particularly Shultz, have been always focusing on the occupied territories "almost as a separate issue from the whole crisis."

Thus, the uprising has fulfilled "the two preconditions" which would warrant an American reaction. "The uprising presented an action by one of the parties involved (the Palestinians under occupation) in the area which is seen by the Americans as the crisis area," said the former diplomat.

"Therefore I believe that Shultz means it when he talks about reinvigorating the peace process," he said. But the question remains whether the American formula will meet the minimum demands of the parties involved, especially the Arabs, and more significantly the Palestinians in the occupied territories, he added.

In the absence of an official American confirmation and disclosure of the nature of these new ideas, press reports, coupled by U.S. statements about moves in the area, have produced mixed reactions from Jordanian and Palestinian personalities here.

The overwhelming trend has been to voice doubts and cynicism over the U.S. policy in the region in general. Analysts do not seem to pin much importance to the reports but rather focus on their perception of a consistent American trend.

"I don't think that the U.S. has new ideas, they (the ideas) are all variations of Camp David," said former Deputy Prime Minister Sulayman 'Arar.

According to 'Abd al-Jawad Salih, head of the Jerusalem Centre for Development Studies and former mayor of Al-Birah in the West Bank, "in essence, the American position has not undergone real changes. It has been an extention of Camp David and the 1982 Reagan plan."

In Salih's view, no American initiative has dealt with the political essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and all proposals overlooked the Palestinian question.

Other analysts believe that the present U.S. Administration is not serious on any moves towards peace in the region, since 1988 is an election year and presidential condidates are more concerned with elections than with finding a solution to the Palestinian problem, a controversy in the U.S.

In addition, the analysts say, the "strategic alliance" between Israel and the U.S. will prevent the formulation of a balanced American policy.

"If we look at Reagan's background for the past eight years, he has not been serious, not even on his own initiative. So why should he now force the Israelis into any peace initiative?" asked Professor of Political Science at the University of Jordan Kamal Abu Jabir, head of the Amman World Affairs Council.

According to Abu Jabir, Reagan will not engage actively in the region lest his party's chances of winning the presidential elections are undermined. Reagan also appears to be careful not to damage his own retirement plans which would need the support of the American community, which is heavily influenced by the Zionists, Abu Jabir said.

But even if the U.S. is serious about reactivating the peace process, the direction that any initiative would take will be influenced by the inherent American-Israeli relationship, said Parliament member Fu'ad Farraj.

Farraj sees no hope that the U.S. will shift its support for Israel since Israel serves specific American interests in the region. These interests, according to Farraj, include maintaining the fragmentation of the Arab world (started by the British colonialists), creating political unrest in the region and consequently ensuring a stable market for American arms.

Furthermore, Farraj argues, due to the special Israeli role in promoting American interests and playing a pivotal part in some of the American covert operations in the region and elsewhere, Israel has acquired a "blackmailing power on the U.S."

For most analysts this pessimistic outlook was only enhanced by the American attitude towards the Palestinian uprising though some argued that the U.S. position was undergoing real changes.

A staunch advocate of this view is a former minister and the leader of the Democratic Unionist gathering, Jamal al- Sha'ir who believes that the Palestinian uprising has made Washington reconsider its position on the Middle East problem.

"The Palestinian uprising has reminded the Americans that the Palestinian question cannot be shelved," said Al- Sha'ir. He also argued that the uprising might have changed the American perception of the situation in the occupied territories and of a possible settlement to the problem. "The uprising has clearly proved that what the people want is not an improvement of the quality of life but an end to the occupation," he said.

In his opinion, the uprising has created new facts which have further influenced the American position. These new factors include the split within the American Jewish community, the differences among world Jewish leaders and a changing attitude of the American public towards Israel.

The American Administration is also concerned not to alienate its Arab allies "who support and admire the American democracy," according to Al-Sha'ir.

According to this analysis, it has now become an American interest to move toward reviving the peace process. "The Americans feel that there is something they can do to limit the Soviet role," said Al-Sha'ir.

Al-Sha'ir's views are shared by a former Jordanian diplomat. "The U.S. feels isolated and cornered and has to do something to appease the Arab countries," said the former diplomat.

But he expressed doubts that the American move will meet Arab demands or expectation. He noted that all ideas which had been "leaked" to the press so far fell short of fulfilling the Arab demands for an international peace conference and addressing the Palestinian question in all of its aspects.

"Therefore, what is the use of any American move if it cannot be accepted by the parties involved?" he asked. "The U.S. is not helping the Arab governments to take any step further."

Other analysts go further by arguing that any new American step or initiative will not be more than a tactic to quell the uprising by creating the illusion to the Arab governments that there is still hope and bypassing the call for an international peace conference. (This view is shared by 'Arar, Abu Jabir and Salih. "In my view, whatever the U.S. is suggesting aims at gaining time to enable Israel to crush the Palestinian uprising and at excluding the idea of an international peace conference," 'Arar said.

Seen in this context, the same analysts did not rule out the possibility that the U.S. would try to build upon the old-new concept of "self-rule."

They believe that the U.S. position has drawn closer to the Israeli right-wing Likud party, which calls for "self-rule" for the Palestinians in the occupied territories within a one-year interim period.

Abu Jabir commented: "The Palestinian uprising is working against the Labour Party and for Likud because of the composition of the Israeli electorate, seen in the shift to the right in Israeli polls. Washington is also watching this trend and they like to support a winner."

But a Palestinian analyst said that it was unlikely that the Americans would endorse "self-rule" by itself "since it has been already rejected by Jordan."

"Therefore, a new American initiative should include new ingredients that would make it appealing to Arab governments and at least to a segment of the population in the occupied territories," he said.

According to the same analyst, one of the American objectives of floating new ideas could be to create "a split in the united Palestinian front in the territories and within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)."

Al-Sha'ir strongly opposes such an assessment. He argues that the Arab countries and the PLO should seize the opportunity and seriously consider the new American proposals.

He even supports a reported, albeit unconfirmed, American plan, to hold municipal council elections in the occupied territories, thus forming some form of Palestinian "self-rule" pending the convening of an international peace conference in September.

Murphy 'To Contain' Arab Support for Uprising

JN071545 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
7 Feb 88 pp 1,22

[Editorial: "Murphy's Mission"]

[Text] It is hard for anyone to believe the news pumped out by U.S. sources that U.S. envoy Murphy's new tour in the Arab region is an innocent one. Undoubtedly the U.S. policy, which is in collusion with the Israeli aggressors through providing them with funds and arms and in protecting them with the veto, cannot give rise to a move that contradicts its nature—a suspicious and biased nature, represented by the U.S. aggressive stand toward Palestinian rights. This policy also constitutes an intolerable challenge to the Arab nation and insistence on subjugating them so that it can present its submission to Israel on a silver plate.

In view of the strategy formulated in Washington by Zionist Israeli and U.S. minds, the reason behind sending Murphy to the region becomes apparent. There is fear that the Arab support for the Palestinian uprising may develop into some positive action that would step up, promote, and enable it to continue for a long period. It is possible, therefore, that the task of the U.S. envoy is to contain the Arab support for the uprising, whether through temptation or threat, and to cause a rift in Arab solidarity if necessary. This means that the mission is by no means innocent. The Arabs must be armed with alertness and determination.

Undoubtedly, what is being said about the reconnaissance nature of the mission does not negate its objectives, especially since it was preceded by news of a U.S. plan aimed at elections in the West Bank and Gaza that would produce a so-called local Palestinian leadership to be a party to alleged negotiations comprising Israel and the United States.

Needless to say, Jordan has, from the beginning, blocked the road before this suspicious attempt by stressing its support for the uprising, its adherence to the international conference, the role of the PLO in the peace process, and its nonparticipation in any autonomy talks. It goes without saying that everyone in the Arab world understands the true dimensions of this plan—to abort the uprising, to hit and disintegrate the Palestinian unity of struggle behind the walls of occupation, and to divert Palestinians from their unified struggle against the Israeli aggressors into rivalry through suspicious elections aimed at fanning disagreements among Palestinians and preventing the PLO from playing its role.

Murphy, of course, knows that the Arabs realize the aims of the plan, yet he wants to know, even though the Arabs are in their resistance of these aims, how serious the Arabs are in their support of the Palestinian uprising, and whether they are really determined to confront the hostile U.S. policy through some action that goes beyond condemnation and criticism.

It is obvious that this reconnaissance process does not mean that Washington is prepared to change its policy. It actually means that Washington is looking into new ways to consecrate this policy, because it is not yet convinced of any imminent Arab action to deter the U.S. intransigence and make Washington pay a heavy price.

There is now a need, more than ever before, for such firm action that the Arab masses have been hoping for and anticipating for a long time. This means that the U.S. interests no longer deserve the status they enjoy in the Arab world and that it is now high time for the Arab world to drive these interests back, whether they are political or economic. Thus, the organized Arab struggle will be more serious and effective, and will move the Arabs from the stage of words to the stage of actions. It should be stressed that these requirements are indispensable if the Arabs want their struggle to be truly echoed in moving the process of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The Arabs have long suffered from U.S. practices prejudiced against them. They have often expressed disappointment over these practices, but is has been made very clear that their pain and disappointment mean nothing to the U.S. decisionmakers. The Arabs should now defend themselves against these practices and cause some pain to those who have filled the Arab arena with pain. There is nothing to immunize those who defy Arab rights from reaping the sour fruits of what they have planted in the region. It will be a dangerous mistake if they remain safe from that.

Arabs Will Not Fall Into 'Traps' Laid by U.S.

JN080905 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
8 Feb 88 pp 1,24

["Every Day" column: "The U.S. Traps Will Not Work" by Tariq Masarwah]

[Text] Some months ago during the Reagan-Gorbachev summit, Washington laid a trap for Jordan when it called for negotiations between Jordan and Israel under the summit umbrella.

Now Washington is laying another trap for Damascus brought by Richard Murphy. The trap calls for negotiations on the basis of "new ideas." The United States has also hinted at Syrian gains in Lebanon in the form of full recognition of a Syrian role in that country!!

We believe that the U.S. traps will not work. The Washington summit umbrella is attractive, but Jordan will not attend without the Palestinians and their organization, as well as Syria and Lebanon.

Jordan, which has advocated the idea of the international conference right from the beginning, will not agree to a U.S.-Soviet umbrella to avoid polarization between the two superpowers. Jordan insists on the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, because the only basis for negotiations are UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338; the five permanent members will be the judges in interpreting these two resolutions and guaranteeing their implementation.

The U.S. traps will also not work because the U.S. hint at Lebanese gains for Damascus is ridiculous. Washington does not hold any cards in Lebanon that it can give to Syria. Moreover, the Syrian role in Lebanon does not need U.S. backing to assert its power, weight, and efficacy. The only cards the United States holds in Lebanon are represented by the Zionist presence in the south and the shameful U.S.-Phalangist-Zionist alliance in East Beirut.

Damascus wants a reconciliatory role in Lebanon and wants to bide its time. Everyone knows that Damascus and the Lebanese national forces could eliminate the Phalangist forces in a matter of hours if they wanted, but Damascus will not shed precious Arab blood in order to remove a Phalangist thorn in the body of Arab Lebanon.

The U.S. traps will not catch any Arab country. Camp David will not extend its shadow in this homeland. The solutions dangled by Washington, which are based on Arab defeat, are rejected because, first and foremost, we are not a defeated nation. The June defeat was not a Hiroshima or Nagasaki bomb, or the occupation of Berlin so that we should declare our absolute surrender to Zionism and imperialism. This nation is alive. It has lost a battle, not the war, and it certainly has not lost itself either.

Further on Kidnapping of UNRWA Workers

UNRWA Threatens Withdrawal

NC051316 Paris AFP in English 1304 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Beirut, Feb 5 (AFP)—Three armed men seized two relief workers, one Norwegian, one a Swede, Friday in southern Lebanon, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said quoting a witness to the abduction.

UNRWA spokesman Niall Kiely identified the hostage victims as project coordinators Jan Stening, 44, from Sweden and William Jorgensen, 58, from Norway.

The two men had been based in Tyre, 83 kilometers (52 miles) south of Beirut, Mr. Kiely said.

Their car—a white Renault 9 with diplomatic plates and bearing the UNWRA insignia—was found empty at 9:30 a.m. (0730 GMT) on the coastal highway just south of the port city of Sidon, 42 kilometers (26 miles) south of Beirut, he added.

The area is controlled mainly by the Shi'ite Amal Movement and the Popular Nasirite Organization (PNO), Sidon's most powerful Sunni militia.

A witness to the snatch used the radio in the abandoned vehicle to inform UNRWA's Tyre office of the incident.

According to the witness, three armed men in a white Mercedes intercepted the Renault and dragged out of it the Scandinavian men before driving away with them, the agency's Tyre office said.

UNRWA's Director of Operations in Lebanon Per Olof Hallquist told a press conference in Beirut that he would order the 14 foreigners working for the agency in Lebanon out of the country if the hostage victims were not "rapidly released."

UNRWA spokesman Kiely said earlier that the agency, which provides humanitarian aid to Palestinian refugees, did not know who was responsible for the abduction.

"We had not received any threats," Mr. Kiely said. UNWRA contacted Lebanese authorities, Amal, the PNO and Palestinian organizations based in refugee camps east of Sidon, he added. [passage omitted]

Giacomelli Calls for Release

LD951495 Kuwait KUNA in English 1330 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Vienna, Feb 5 (KUNA)—UNRWA Commissioner-General Georgio Giacomelli Friday called for immediate release of two UNRWA staff members kidnapped in Sidon, Lebanon this morning, an official press release said.

"These two men were performing a humanitarian task and have been supervising relief operations for thousands of Palestine refugees and other needy people in the Tyre area", Giacomelli said.

"UNRWA is making contacts through diplomatic and other channels to seek the immediate release of these staff members and I have informed the secretary-general asking him to make urgent efforts to gain the release of these two innocent men."

The two men, Jan Stening, 44, and William Jorgensen, 58, were kidnapped in Sidon, Lebanon at 09:55 this morning.

Their UNRWA car was stopped and they were put into another car which headed south in the direction of Tyre. Both men joined UNRWA in Lebanon in spring 1987.

Pro-Abu Nidal Group Implicated

NC051753 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] REUTER cites an unnamed militia source as saying that the kidnappers of the two UNRWA employees are pro-Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] Palestinians.

The Amal Movement has denied any links with the abduction and said that the area where the incident occurred is a buffer zone between rival military units. Mustafa Sa'd, Nasirite Popular Organization leader, stressed that the kidnapping of the Swedish and Norwegian workers took place in an area not under the control of any organization. He noted that they were kidnapped between Al-Ghaziyah, which is under Amal's control, and Sayniq, where Popular Liberation Army units are deployed.

Perez De Cuellar Comments

LD052054 Kuwait KUNA in English 1940 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] United Nations, Feb 5 (KUNA)—Secretary-General Javier Perez De Cuellar called Friday on the Lebanese Government to make "all possible efforts" to obtain the freedom of two UNRWA staff members abducted near the Lebanese port city of Sidon earlier in the day.

In a statement, the secretary-general said he viewed with the "gravest concern" the abduction of the two men, who were identified as Jan Stening of Sweden and William Jorgensen of Norway.

The U.N. chief, who was preparing to leave on his Africa tour later in the day, also called upon the kidnappers to free the two immediately and appealed to "all governments and organisations in a position to help to use their influence to that end."

A U.N. spokesman said he had no information about the identity of the kidnappers.

The latest abductions call into question the U.N.'s announced plan to reopen the Beirut office of the U.N. Development Programme [UNDP]. A UNDP spokesman in New York said these plans may be delayed if the two Scandinavians are not released.

The office was shut down in 1984 because of the "uncertain political conditions."

Since 1982, hundreds of local and international UNRWA staff have been kidnapped and wounded or are missing, but the U.N. could not give a precise figure because as many them had been held for only a day or less.

In 1982, a British journalist on UNRWA assignment, Alec Collett, was abducted and hasn't been heard from since.

Abu Nidal Denies Involvement

NC060605 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] No one has claimed responsibility yet for the kidnapping of the two UNRWA employees. REUTER has cited unnamed militia sources as saying that the kidnappers are pro-Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] Palestinians. However, the Abu Nidal group has issued a statement denying any involvement in the operation. Both the Amal Movement and the Nasirite Popular Organization have also absolved themselves of the kidnapping and condemned it.

Location, Motives Alleged

LD061210 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1130 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Now 24 hours have passed since the Swede, Jan Stening, and his Norwegian colleague, William Jorgensen, were kidnapped in Lebanon. Per Olof Hallquist, the head of the UN organization providing aid to Palestinians, said earlier in our program that the kidnapping could be a mistake. We have also heard that this could be an act of revenge.

However, just as this program began, new information was received. Here is Boerje Remdahl:

[Remdahl] We have just received a telegram from the UNRWA in Vienna which says that Jan Stening and his Norwegian colleague are being held at (Dalay Baltan) near the Palestinian refugee camp of 'Ayn al-Hulwah, not very far from Sidon where the two were abducted in southern Lebanon. The message also says that the two are expected to be freed within a few days; local PLO leaders have reportedly threatened to storm the house in which the hostages are now being held. This threat is expected to lead to the release of the two Scandinavians. This morning, PLO men in southern Lebanon were awaiting the consent of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, UNRWA reports. It is still unclear which organization is behind the kidnapping.

We can also report that a Palestinian UNRWA official, as quoted by the AP news agency in Beirut, has said that Jan Stening recently completed an investigation which had disclosed that large amounts of fuel and medicines had been stolen from UNRWA stores both in Sidon, where the two were abducted, and in the town of Tyre. As a result of Stening's report, six Palestinians were dismissed from their jobs within the organization. Moreover, the Palestinian source said that the dismissed UNRWA employees had good relations with a commandant within one of the local guerrilla groups. According to these reports, the kidnapping could be simply an act of revenge, and what is now being reported seems to confirm this picture.

More on Motives, 'Swindle'

LD061315 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1130 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] We now have the latest news about the kidnapped Swede and his Norwegian UN colleague in Lebanon. We said earlier that we had heard that they were being held near the Palestinian refugee camp of Ayn al-Hulwah, not far from Sidon. Boerje Remdahl has some new information:

[Remdahl] It is the UNRWA which continues to report. They say that the kidnapping is linked to an investigation into a swindle within the organization. Per Olof Hallquist, the UNRWA chief in Beirut, says that both President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, as well as Justice Minister Nabih Birri, have been working for the release of the two UN officials. For security reasons he does not want to give any details about this.

Earlier, the Palestinian breakaway organization, the Fatah Revolutionary Council, which is led by Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], had been named as the possible kidnappers. But that group issued a communique this morning saying that if we want to kidnap anyone, we shall do it openly and announce our role. It is known that a disagreement took place recently between the Fatah Revolutionary Council and UNRWA about the distribution of food rations. We thus know where the Swedes [as heard] are, and the kidnappers have been identified—at least two of them—as (Yahya) and (Munir Mahda). It now seems that Stening and his Norwegian colleague will be freed soon.

Kidnapping 'Not Political'

NC061734 Paris AFP in English 1730 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Beirut, Feb 6 (AFP)—The abduction of two Scandinavian relief workers in south Lebanon was "not political," the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said Saturday, voicing optimism they would be freed unharmed.

UNRWA said the kidnapping Friday of project coordinators Jan Stening, 44, from Sweden, and Norwegian William Jorgensen, 58, has not been claimed, but "there is reason to believe that the abduction did not have political motives."

The kidnappers may have hidden the two Scandinavians in a refugee camp close to the southern port city of Sidon, near where the abduction took place, UNRWA Spokesman Niall Kiely told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, adding the kidnapping may have been "personal".

UNRWA had fired six local employees from its Tyre office in southern Lebanon two weeks before the two supervisors were snatched, sources close to the office said earlier.

The employees, who nationalities were not given, were accused of stealing UNRWA medical supplies and later dismissed on the basis of a report from Mr. Stening, the sources said.

"We are optimistic and hope that the affair will be resolved without any harm coming to our colleagues," an UNRWA statement said, stressing that contacts were underway with all major parties concerned.

The agency, which has 14 foreign and 2,200 local employees, provides food, education and medicine to 278,609 registered Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

More on Captors' Identities

NC061853 Paris AFP in English 1846 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Beirut, Feb 6 (AFP)—The captors of two Scandinavian relief workers in south Lebanon are Palestinians "probably" linked to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said Saturday.

UNRWA Spokesman Niall Kiely cautioned that the abduction Friday of project coordinators Jan Stening, 44, from Sweden, and Norwegian William Jorgensen, 58, was not believed to have political motives.

"It has been established that the captors are Palestinians. There was no indication ... that any major group or organisation is involved," the spokesman said in a statement.

"It now seems probable that the kidnapping was carried out by a group of individuals and it is known that they have Fatah connection."

Fatah is the main component of the PLO.

Mr. Kiely said earlier that the kidnappers may be holding the two Scandinavians in a refugee camp close to the southern port city of Sidon, near where the abduction took place.

The spokesman also denied reports that a group of local UNRWA employees had been sacked two weeks before the kidnapping.

UNRWA, which has 14 foreign and 2,200 local employees, provides food, education and medicine to 278,609 registered Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

Sources close to UNRWA had said earlier six employees were fired on the basis of a report from Mr. Stening after being accused of stealing UNRWA medical supplies from the agency's southern Lebanon offices in Tyre.

Mr. Kiely said a robbery had occurred at UNRWA's central warehouse in Beirut and Mr. Stening carried out a study of security arrangements, but "at no time were any staff members suspended or fired in relation to this study."

"We are optimistic and hope that the affair will be resolved without any harm coming to our colleagues," UNRWA added.

'Arafat Wants Captives Freed

NC062146 Paris AFP in English 2134 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Beirut, Feb 6 (AFP)—The captors of two Scandinavian relief workers in south Lebanon are Palestinians believed to have ties to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said Saturday.

UNRWA Spokesman Niall Kiely added, however, that the kidnapping Friday of project coordinators Jan Stening, 44, from Sweden, and Norwegian William Jorgensen, 58, was probably carried out on personal grounds rather than for any organisation.

Palestinian fighters Saturday combed through orchards south of the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp, near the southern port city of Sidon where the kidnapping occurred, in search of the relief workers, Palestinian sources said.

The search followed orders from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat that the relief workers, the first Scandinavians to have been kidnapped in Lebanon, should be freed "as soon as possible and at whatever cost," the sources in Sidon said. [passage omitted]

Search Continues

LD071048 Stockholm International Service in Swedish 1000 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] In Lebanon, the Palestinians who kidnapped the Swede, Jan Stening, and the Norwegian, William Jorgensen, have still not revealed themselves. During the night and morning, staff of the UN organisation UNRWA, where the Scandinavians worked, along with a large number of Palestinians have been combing the harbor town of Sidon and the area south of the town. Attempts have been made to obtain information about the kidnapping and assurances to the effect that the two abducted UNRWA workers have not been moved. It is believed that the Swede and the Norwegian are being held captive in a house in a village near the refugee camp of 'Ayn al-Hulwah outside Sidon.

Location Reportedly Found

NC071103 Paris AFP in English 1053 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Sidon, Lebanon, Feb 7 (AFP)—Two kidnapped U.N. relief workers could be released within 48 hours, the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO)'s main Fatah Movement said Sunday, adding that it had located the spot where they were being held.

Fatah spokesman Anwar Madi told journalists here that Swedish national Jan Stening and Norwegian William Jorgensen were being held in an area "controlled by the Palestinians and the Lebanese parties."

The two Scandinavians, project supervisors for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) which provides aid to Palestinian refugees, were abducted by gunmen Friday just south of this port city 43 kilometers (27 miles) south of Beirut.

Mr Madi said the kidnappers, whose nationality he did not reveal, had "acted on their own initiative." [passage omitted]

Workers Held in 'Ayn al-Hulwah

NC071720 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Fatah announced today that it has managed to locate the whereabouts of the two abducted UNRWA employees. Fatah expects their release within 48 hours. [passage omitted]

According to URNWA sources in Sidon, the Norwegian and Swedish employees are being held in a deserted house located in the western part of 'Ayn al-Hulwah.

UNRWA Issues Statement

LD071724 Kuwait KUNA in English 1623 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Vienna, Feb 7 (KUNA)—Commissioner General Giorgio Giacomelli, head of U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near and Middle East (UNRWA) issued a statement here Sunday which KUNA presents at full length.

"Over the past six years, UNRWA has been able to operate its services to refugees living in Lebanon. This has been done at great risk to the lives of many idividuals but by continuing to operate, UNRWA has been able to care for and in some ways protect the lives of thousands of civilian Palestine refugees".

"There comes a time however, when the agency must consider whether it can continue to operate in a professional manner with the full support of the refugee community, its staff, the Government of Lebanon and other groups in Lebanon".

"Today two of our international staff are being held hostage in the Sidon area. Whatever the outcome of this event, we will have to seriously consider calling to a halt to our operations in the Sidon area or even in other parts of Lebanon if we cannot be guaranteed freedom of movement for our staff carrying out their humanitarian task".

Kidnappers 'Identified'

NC080645 Paris AFP in English 0631 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Feb 8 (AFP)—A Palestinian group claimed Monday that the kidnappers of two Scandinavian U.N. relief workers had been identified and would release their hostages "very quickly."

Walid Khalid, spokesman for Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) blamed Friday's abduction on "a suspect group infiltrated within Fatah," a rival Palestinian movement that forms the core of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO).

"After contacts were made, this group has been cornered and should free the Swede Jan Stening and the Norwegian William Jorgensen very quickly."

The two men were south Lebanon project supervisors for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) aiding Palestinian refugees. UNRWA on Saturday accused a group with "connections to Fatah" of the kidnapping, but Fatah denied any Palestinian involvement.

Mr Khalid said the identity of the kidnappers was revealed during a meeting late Sunday in Sidon chaired by Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Popular Naserite Organization, the Sunni militia that controls the port city 43 kilometers (27 miles) south of Beirut.

Also attending were UNRWA's Lebanon Security Chief John Carelan and senior representatives of the FRC, Fatah and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), another PLO group.

Following the meeting, the DFLP's Mamduh Nawfal said the group had received "precise, but contradictory" information on where the two men were being held.

Gunmen abducted Mr Stening and Mr Jorgensen Friday just south of Sidon.

Schray Reportedly Moved in Diplomatic Car

NC051249 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] According to information available to our radio, FRG hostage Schray will not be freed soon, despite the Syrian pressure exerted to seek his release. According to the same information, Schray was first taken to the Hayy al-Lija area [of West Beirut] and then moved 3 days later to the southern suburb of Beirut in a diplomatic car flying the Iranian flag. The kidnapped German citizen has been kept since then at a heavily guarded location where a number of gunmen have been sent in order to avert any possible attempt to free him.

Meanwhile, our radio has learned that Hizballah is monitoring the movements of a number of German, French, and U.S. citizens who often visit West Beirut.

ASALA Denies Killing French National

NC051802 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] The Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia [ASALA] has denied any connection with the assassination of Jacques Merrin, the French intelligence service agent. The Elie Hubayqah group has accused ASALA of carrying out the operation.

Car Bomb Defused Near Air France Offices

NC060540 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Army Chief Warrant Officer Yusuf Bityar has dismantled an explosive device planted in a blue Peugeot 504 parked near the Air France offices on the Jall al-Dhi'b highway. Bitar has told Voice of Lebanon that the device contained 40 kg of TNT. Security sources said that investigations are under way to determine whether the booby-trapped car is the one that was used by the assassins of the French intelligence man.

Car Bomb Kills Amal Security Official

NC060833 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] According to a security report, a military explosives expert defused a car bomb in Jall al-Dhi'b [in East Beirut] at 0500 today. Security sources said that the car, which was rigged with 40 kg of highly explosive material, was parked outside a restaurant in Jall al-Dhi'b. It bore license plate number 964852, which belongs to a Mercedes 200.

In another development, an explosion took place in a car in the Bi'r al-'Abd area [of West Beirut] at 0800 today. 'Abbas 'Awadah, the car owner who was in it, was killed immediately. [Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 0815 GMT on 6 February in a similar report identifies 'Abbas 'Awadah as an Amal Movement security official.]

Amal Confirms Identity

NC061111 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] The Amal Movement's Security Bureau has issued a statement confirming the killing of 'Abbas 'Awadah, otherwise known as Abu Rabi', the official in charge of the movement's security branch in Burj al-Barajinah. He was killed in the blast that destroyed his car in front of his house in Harat Hurayk this morning.

Junblatt To Discuss New Volunteers in Libya

NC061027 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt has departed for Libya to discuss with Libyan officials the arrangements for dispatching a new batch of volunteers to fight alongside the Libyan troops against Chad.

Syrian Defense Minister Meets With Franjiyah

NC061202 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1151 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] General Mustafa Talas, Syrian defense minister, arrived in Zgharta a short while ago at the head of a military delegation on a surprise visit. He immediately held talks with former President Sulayman Franjiyah.

Further on Talas Visit

NC061737 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Former President Sulayman Franjiyah received Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas this afternoon. Franjiyah's son, Robert, was present during the meeting. General Mustafa Talas was accompanied by General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff; Major General Sa'id Bayraqdar, commander of the Syrian forces operating in Lebanon; Brigadier General Sulayman al-Hasan, commander of the Syrian units in northern Lebanon; and a number of command officers.

Former President Franjiyah then held a 10-minute meeting with General Talas. After the meeting, the Syrian defense minister left Zgharta Palace. During the Syrian official's visit, former President Franjiyah held a luncheon to honor the delegation.

General Talas had arrived at the headquarters of the Syrian forces command in the northern area of Al-Haykaliyah aboard a special helicopter at 1200 today. He immediately held a meeting with the command officers, who briefed him on the security situation in the area.

Iran's Kharrazi Meets With Resistance Group

LD060947 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Beirut, Feb. 6, IRNA—Head of Iran's War Information Headquarters (WIH) and managing director of Islamic Republic News Agency Kamal Kharrazi here met with a group of members of 'Mu'minah resistance' group here Thursday night. Kharrazi stressed the role of Muslim militants on making aggressive plans of Zionists collapse and also their role in libertion of the occupied territories.

He said that the history of aggressions and expansionism of Zionists and the world arrogance in the region bears witness that by applying new political tricks they always try to diveret the nations from their liberation movements.

By doing so, world arrogance and imperialism wishes to expand their domination. However, the struggle of the Muslims has shattered all these calculations, he told the group.

The WIH head further told the visitors that it was their duty to avoid getting involved in political games and continue direct confrontation with the enemy and rest assured that the victory is with them who are followers of God. He stressed that the enemy understands no language other than that of gun.

The Muslim nation of Iran, he added, has deployed these techniques in its war against the Iraqi regime and the whole world is aware of the power and victories of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This also has been the policy of the Iranian nation in its campaign against world arrogance. Iranian victories, he pointed out, are gained only through resistance motivated by strong faith in God. Therefore, he emphasised, there is no doubt that those who resist will triumph.

Delegation Departs for Syria

LD061619 Tehran IRNA in English 1601 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Beirut, Feb. 6, IRNA—An Iranian delegation led by head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) and managing director of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) Kamal Kharrazi concluded its week-long visit to Lebanon. Kharrazi reviewed the Muslims' situation there and discussed propaganda coordination with Islamic groups to counter the poisonous tirade launched by imperialists and global arrogance.

Kharrazi also met with combatants of the Islamic Resistance Movement at the frontlines fighting the Zionists and their mercenaries led by Christian Antoine Lahd.

The WIH head praised the non-stop struggles of the Muslims and urged them to continue their jihad against the Zionist regime.

Meanwhile, the Iranian delegation met combatants of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) at their headquarters in Baalbek, eastern Lebanon, where it stressed on the role these combatants play in deepening relations between Iranian and Lebanese Muslims.

Group Claims Responsibility for Tripoli Blast

NC051217 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Excerpt] An explosion took place in a building jointly occupied by Syrian intelligence and the pro-Syrian Arab Democratic Party in the Al-Mina area of Tripoli at approximately 1230 today. In the past the building housed a clinic run by the Islamic Unification Front, but it was seized by the Syrians upon their entry into the city and tuned into a center jointly held by their intelligence and the Arab Democratic Party.

In a statement to our radio, the Khalil 'Akkawi Group of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for the blast. [passage omitted]

Tension Reported Near Sidon, Burj al-Barajinah

NC051513 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Amal and Palestinian militiamen are exchanging gunfire on the combat lines of Tanburit and Maghdushah, east of Sidon. Meanwhile, there is heightened tension in the Burj al-Barajinah camp following a midday confrontation between Hizballah and Amal gunmen.

Syrian occupation forces are maintaining their security cordon around the Al-Mina section of Tripoli following a midday explosion there. The 9 February Organization, which claimed responsibility for the explosion, said that the blast took place at a center used jointly by Syrian intelligence and the pro-Syrian Arab Democratic Party. The organization said that among those hurt in the explosion was the Syrian official in charge of the center, Khalil Darraj.

'Lebanese Liberation Front' Claims Killings

NC071506 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] The Lebanese Liberation Front has announced its responsibility for the assassination of Syrian Colonel Muhammad Hirru, Syrian Major Hani al-Safad, three persons accompanying them, and the daughter of the owner of the house they were visiting in the town of Al-Kwashrah in 'Akkar.

9 February Group Claims Killing of 2 Syrians

NC071510 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has declared that two Syrian occupation soldiers were killed in a machinegun attack on a Syrian position at the entrance to the port of Tripoli, near the railroad, at dawn today.

Lahd Military Official Reportedly Captured

NC061022 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] A statement issued by the Lebanese National Resistance Front today announced that one of the front's groups carried out a daring operation against the agent Lahd forces in the Kafr Falus-Sfaray area last night. Following fierce clashes involving the use of various types of weapons, the resistance fighters were able to capture a Lahd militia military official.

Militia Admits Incident

NC080853 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] A Lahd militiaman has been injured in a mine explosion which occurred near Rshaf Township. An Israeli military helicopter transported the wounded man to the occupied territory for treatment. The militias have admitted that resistance men arrested a militiaman in Kafr Falus last Friday.

Tension continues in the areas of Haddathah, Bra'shit, Yatar, and Haris because of incessant Israeli attacks during the past few days. Last night these areas were shelled by Israeli artillery, which caused property damage.

Enemy forces penetrated as far as 4 kms into the liberated areas in the Jisr Mimis area of Hasbayya and raked the area.

Israeli Aircraft Continue Sidon Overflights

NC052257 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2245 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes continue their reconnaissance sorties over Sidon. The aircraft intensified their overflights as of midnight.

Flights Continue 6 Feb

NC061208 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon and its environs at 1400 during reconnaissance sorties.

Mock Raids Staged Over Camps

NC062059 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew reconnaissance sorties tonight, staging mock raids over the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah camps in the south.

Israeli Reinforcements Sent Into Border Zone

NC060843 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] The Israeli occupation authorities sent additional armored vehicles and troops to the occupied border strip yesterday out of fear of the recently increased resistance operations. Security sources say that the enemy forces brought in more than 100 tanks and vehicles, deploying them in various positions in the occupied areas. Israeli warplanes and helicopters have also continued to fly reconnaissance over all the occupied zones and adjacent liberated areas. In addition, more than 200 soldiers carried out wide-scale search operations between Metulla and Al-Khiyam yesterday, going as far as Nab' al-Wazzani, (Jisr al-Miri), and Al-Majidiyah.

Resistance Battles Israeli Patrol 7 Feb

NC071745 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] According to a dispatch from an NNA correspondent in the south, an Israeli enemy patrol made up of an enemy intelligence car and three other vehicles tried to advance toward the town of Sribbin in the central sector in the south at 1100 today. A group of national resistance fighters confronted and defeated the patrol after a 90-minute clash. A state of alert then prevailed in and around Sribbin, as a precaution.

Following the withdrawal of the aggressive Israeli force, Sribbin and the area around the town of Haddathah came under 106-mm artillery shelling that caused property damage.

Richard Murphy Arrives for Talks 5 Feb

Meets With Al-Shar'

JN061258 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' held talks with Mr Richard Murphy, the U.S. assistant secretary of state, this morning with the U.S. ambassador in Damascus attending.

Mr Murphy arrived in Damascus last night with the aim of holding talks with officials in the country about some of the region's current issues.

In Washington, U.S. officials said today that the U.S. Government is now convinced that any solution for the Middle East problem should pass through Syria. The Kuwait news agency, KUNA, cites a U.S. State Department official as saying: We have realized that Syria has regional influence in the area and, therefore, the success of any initiative will depend on Syria's response to it. A Lebanese diplomat in Washington has stated: The interests and approaches of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz are now different from what they were in 1983, for he is now convinced that the key to a solution lies with Damascus.

Received by Khaddam

JN071235 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Mr Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, and his delegation at 1245 today. U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Mr William Eagleton attended the meeting. The talks dealt with the current situation in the region and its developments.

Presents Letter to Al-Asad

JN072136 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, at 1715 today. Present at the meeting were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', U.S. Ambassador in Damascus William Eagleton, and the members of Murphy's accompanying delegation. Murphy presented a letter from President Reagan to his excellency the president.

They discussed various aspects of current regional developments, as well as the regional and international implications of the uprising of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territory. The president affirmed that this uprising demonstrates the need to accommodate the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people and for Israel's withdrawal from all of the occupied Arab land. It also shows the need for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace through an international Mideast peace conference apart from unilateral, separate deals. The discussion also took up the Lebanese crisis and the need for national accord there.

Latest U.S. Initiative 'Unconvincing' Maneuver

JN061452 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has shown great interest in the Middle East situation. Without committing the United States, he put forward the possibility of the United States actively seeking to participate in tackling the situation in the region.

U.S., Western, and even Arab media have reported on an initiative the United States wants to carry out in the area. The U.S. President sent his personal envoy, Philip Habib, to convey a message to King Husayn. King Husayn said that the message had reflected President Reagan's interest in recent events in the occupied territory and his annoyance with what is happening. The message also included Reagan's desire that the United States embark on a new initiative, and declared that in light of current developments in the region the United States wants to reconsider its policy.

Following Habib's visit to Amman, Secretary of State Shultz has sent his assistant Richard Murphy to the Middle East to put forward the U.S. ideas. These ideas have become more productive with the escalation of the Palestinian Arab people's resistance to the Israeli occupation and the failure of the Israeli rulers to end the uprising with brute force, violence, and inhuman suppression.

First of all, we must say that as a superpower which is a permanent member of the UN Security Council and which has interests in the Middle East and the world, the United States has a special responsibility toward security and peace in various parts of the world. Its responsibility in the Middle East is greater than in other parts of the world, considering its special relationship and strategic alliance with Israel.

Needless to say, the United States is capable of exercising real influence on the rulers of Israel in view of Israel's total reliance on U.S. financial, military, and diplomatic aid. The United States is not required to turn from being absolutely biased toward Israel to becoming hostile to it. Rather, the United States should adopt a stand compatible with the principles of the UN Charter and resolutions and the principles of freedom, independence, and self-determination—principles the United States has bandied about on every occasion. In other words, the United States should help bring about a just peace instead of supporting the war of aggression, occupation, the annexation of the territory of others, and the perpetration of war crimes and crimes against humanity with U.S. weapons, material, and moral support.

An observer of the latest U.S. moves must note that the popular uprising in the occupied territory, its local, regional, and international efforts, and its political short- and long-term significance have greatly worried the United States. The uprising has confronted the United States with a situation that entails the possibility of the collapse of the entire structure it has sought for many years to build upon the Camp David accords. Naturally, the U.S. Administration is hastening to try and save what it has considered to be its achievment, policy, and strategy. The administration is trying to contain the event that has chanted the situation and the facts, and to circumvent it by various means.

For the United States to say that it wants to reconsider its policy in light of the latest events is unconvincing. It is merely part of the maneuvering to gain time and to deflect attention from the real problem in the region and from the dilemma facing the U.S.-Israeli-Camp David policy.

The United States knows the region well and knows its problems, particularly as it has an effective hand in [words indistinct] most of them. The United States is in no need of new information and contacts to probe stands. Everything in the region is clear; the causes of the crisis are known, as are the ways to tackle it in a sound manner, and the factors that have prevented the establishment of a just peace so far. These factors are known particularly to the United States which, together with Israel, has so far been the major obstacle in the way of establishing a just peace and in tackling the principal stumbling block in the Middle East crisis; namely, the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

What is now required of the United States is not to conduct studies, to embark on fact-finding tours, to hold contacts to probe stands, or to propose again plans and intiatives that failed years ago. Rather, it is necessary that the United States learn from what has happened in the area; from the collapse of the Camp David policy in the Arab region to the uprising in the Israeli-occupied areas. The United States must also turn from a situation where U.S. policy in the Middle East serves Israel to a situation where U.S. policy takes the future into consideration from the angle of U.S. national interests, not Israeli interests. The United States should also turn from covering the ambition of controlling the entire region and its cause with the help of Israel to a state of acknowledging the presence of regional forces and their interests, the new balance of power, and the right of peoples to freedom and self-determination.

Bias toward Israel and insistence on the Camp David policy will not serve peace, nor have they benefited the United States. Insistence on them is more harmful to the interests and prestige of the United States than to any other power. What the United States needs to do is to declare a clear stand, and not to maneuver.

Afghanistan

Najibullah, Cordovez Discuss Settlement Talks
LD071804 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] At the presidential headquarters in Gol Khanah Palace this afternoon, esteemed Dr Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received Diego Cordovez, assistant to the UN secretary general, who came to Kabul for negotiations and consultations.

The president talked with the UN assistant about all related issues which affect the attainment of a political solution to the situation around Afghanistan and the need to create an atmosphere of understanding and accord with regard to documents related to negotiations between the Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan in Geneva. He clarified once again the flexible and constructive position of the Republic of Afghanistan on these issues and problems.

According to another report, Cordovez returned to Islamabad this evening. Present at Kabul international airport to bid him farewell were Muhammad Faruq Karmand, deputy foreign minister; the Foreign Ministry's director of protocol; and Sh. K. Banerjee, president of the UN development agency in Kabul.

Cordovez Meets With Mujahidin Alliance Leader
BK061128 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, held talks with the head of the Ettehad-e Eslami-e Mujahidin-e Afghanistan [Islamic Alliance of the Mujahidin of Afghanistan] Mawlawi Muhammad Yunis Khalis, in Peshawar today. Both were assisted by their aides. [passage omitted]

Comments on 'Progress' Achieved
BK061527 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Two rounds of talks lasting for more than 2 and 1/2 hours were held in Peshawar today between the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, and the head of the Ettehad-e-Eslami-e Mujahidin-e Afghanistan, Mawlawi Muhammad Yunis Khalis. Both sides were assisted by their aides during the talks.

Talking to Radio Pakistan's Peshawar representative later, Mr Diego Cordovez said that both sides have clarified their viewpoints and understanding has been reached on many important aspects. He added that both sides are advancing (?together). He noted that whenever they hold talks and exchange viewpoints progress is achieved.

When asked whether he will hold further talks with the alliance leaders, the UN envoy replied that he has held in-depth discussions with everyone who can assist directly or indirectly in this process and put forward a better perspective. He pointed to the fact that he has said many times that only the Afghan people can decide the future of Afghanistan.

Mr Cordovez affirmed that we have a responsibility and we believe that we can fulfill it.

'Real Party' Status Sought
BK061722 Hong Kong AFP in English 1715 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Feb 6 (AFP)—United Nations mediator on Afghanistan Diego Cordovez said here Saturday the resistance was sticking strongly to its demand for recognition as a "real party" in the issue.

Mr. Cordovez was speaking to journalists at the airport after meeting a mujahidin resistance leader, Yunis Khalis, for what he described as cordial talks. "We are moving in the same direction," he said without elaboration.

The unannounced meeting lasted over two hours and is considered by observers here as an important step towards a possible solution of the nine-year-old Afghan problem, since Mr. Khalis last week refused to meet Mr. Cordovez.

Mr. Khalis told Mr. Cordovez that he agreed to meet him in response to "the personal request of the president of Pakistan, General Ziaul Haq", a mujahidin communique said.

He also told the U.N. envoy that unless the resistance were considered a "real party" to the issue, there could be no solution to the problem, the communique said.

"The mujahidin will continue their struggle even if one Russian advisor is present in Afghanistan," it added.

The U.N. envoy returned from Peshawar to Islamabad, where he briefed President Ziaul Haq, informed sources said.

Mr. Cordovez will go to Kabul Sunday to meet Afghan leaders, apparently to get their point of view on his meeting with the mujahidin. It will be his third visit to Afghanistan since the beginning of his latest peace shuttle, which started January 20.

Mujahidin Role in Settlement

LD071100 Tehran IRNA in English 1008 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 7, IRNA—U.N. envoy to Kabul Diego Cordovez has promised that the mujahidin will be signatory to any agreement with Moscow on Afghanistan, leader of Afghanistan Islamic Association Burhanuddin Rabbani told IRNA here Sunday.

He said that Cordovez has admitted that the situation in Afghanistan cannot possibly be solved without the participation of mujahidin.

Rabbani noted that the U.N. envoy has expressed his disbelief in the feasibility and eventual usefulness of indirect talks between Islamabad and Kabul in Geneva for a negotiated settlement of the political dilemma in Afghanistan.

Political parties in Afghanistan had declared earlier that they would not talk with Cordovez if Afghan mujahidin should not be a party in the talks.

Pakistan's President General Ziaul Haq met Cordovez Saturday night after the latter's return from Peshawar. Apparently he briefed President Ziaul Haq on his talks with the mujahidin, but details of their talks have not yet been published.

Cordovez is expected to leave Islamabad for Kabul today.

Mujahidin Capture 2 Military Posts at Charikar

BK070630 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that the Afghan mujahidin have captured two military posts of the Soviet-Kabul forces at Charikar. They also killed a large number of Soviet-Kabul troops in this operation.

Operations in Faryab, Herat

BK051151 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have blasted the ammunition depot in (Baraj) town near Herat city. AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS says two tanks and a trailer were also destroyed [words indistinct] 12 Soviet-Kabul troops killed in operation. In another incident in Ghowr Province, two Soviet-Kabul troops were killed when their vehicle was hit by a mine planted by the mujahidin near Chaghcharan.

Meanwhile, 30 Afghan civilians have been killed by Soviet bombing in the surrounding of Dowlatabad town of Faryab Province bordering the Soviet Union.

Leaders Attend Cotton Growers Assembly in Balkh

LD062054 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Excerpts] The assembly of the country's cotton growers was convened today in the city of Mazar-e Sharif, the capital of historic Balkh Province. Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and PDPA Central Committee general secretary, took part in the assembly.

Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand and a number of ministers and government officials also took part in the assembly's work.

Work began after a few verses from the holy Koran were recited. Esteemed Najibullah then delivered a speech opening the assembly, which was convened in the conference hall of the Mazar-e Sharif Technical College of Gas and Petroleum. [passage omitted]

A BIA correspondent reports from Mazar-e Sharif that Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand read out the assembly's basic report. In explaining the country's economic situation, he noted the special role played by cotton as an important agricultural plant. [passage omitted]

Esteemed Najibullah, together with the participants in the cotton grower's assembly, had lunch in the Mazar-e Sharif Technical College of Gas and Petroleum.

Esteemed Najibullah returned to Kabul this evening.

Najibullah Opening Address

LD070002 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Opening speech by President Najibullah at a meeting of cotton growers in Mazar-e Sharif on 6 February—recorded]

[Text] Dear brothers, farmers, and cotton growers, you producers of white gold:

I cordially welcome you, dear farmers, to the second gathering of cotton growers. I thank you, on behalf of the Republic of Afghanistan and myself, for your share in increasing farm products. Assemblies are one of the most ancient traditions in our country. Your assembly enjoys a special importance because it is being held under the circumstances of national reconciliation.

All of us think that the only way to eliminate fratricide, poverty, grief, and sorrow is through the policy of national reconciliation, which enjoys ever increasing support from our compatriots. We talk with pride about our achievements and successes in this difficult struggle.

The Grand Assembly, the highest manifestation of the people's will and the acclaimable traditions of Afghans, has become the greatest event in recent months. The Grand Assembly ratified the Afghan Constitution, which has become the symbol of the renovation of Afghan society.

The Afghan Constitution was drafted in complete compliance with the tenets of the sacred religion of Islam.

This year, 3,200 villages have peacefully joined the people's sovereignty, whereas over the past 6 years this number was 6,500 villages. As many as 110,000 people have returned to their homes and hearths from camps in Pakistan and Iran, whereas previously about 5,000 refugees had returned home per year.

More than 40,000 armed people have stopped resisting and have signed the truce and cease-fire protocols. As many as 6,000 opposition members have been brought into the revolutionary organs of administration, and more than 150,000 compatriots have returned to a peaceful life. I note that the number of ex-opponents who have laid down their arms throughout the whole undeclared war previously did not exceed 12,000 people. According to the proposal of the national reconciliation commission, 12,000 prisoners have been released from jail.

The creation of peace zones as a consequence of the peace-loving initiatives of people has today become a political reality in our country. As many as 165 districts and subdistricts, 2 provinces, and 1,150 villages, having a total population of 3 million, exist in the peace zones. In fact, no such thing existed pereviously.

For the first time, the all-enterpreneurs conference and the congress of artisans were convened. Laws were ratified, opening good prospects for the dynamic development of all fundamental socioeconomic foundations.

This year many new industrial plants were founded and more than 50 new industrial plants have been put into operation, most of them in private and mixed sectors. The volume of industrial production has increased 3.7 percent, and 140,000 tonnes of wheat have been purchased in the domestic market. We had never attained such success.

It should also be noted that for the first time in the history of our country, assemblies of nomad tribes and Hazara nationals were convened in the first year of national reconciliation. One year ago when setting out peaceful activities, we clearly saw that implementing national reconciliation was not a simple task.

For the first time we put our hand out to the other side. For the first time we built a bridge over the abyss of war and decimation that has caused the death of hundreds of thousands of our compatriots and has inflicted damages worth 50 billion afghanis on our national treasures. Could we somehow exonerate the annihiliation of people and the destruction of villages, schools, underground irrigation systems, hospitals, and factories? Ask widows and mothers who have lost their husbands and children. Ask the children who suffer from hunger [words indistinct].

Afghanistan is an agricultural country. About 80 percent of the population lives in villages and engages in farming. About 70 percent of gross national product and more than half of the national income comes from agriculture. The state and government do a great deal of work to develop agriculture and grant assistance to farmers.

The statute on improving land and water relations was ratified to expand the rights of all strata of farmers. In accordance with this, taking into account our traditions and Islamic law, and with input from the farmers, the norm of land ownership has been established as about 1 hectare of first class land per family. Related ministries have now prepared the document on land ownership. They will train the people who will arrive in the provinces in the next 2 weeks to implement this law.

Dear farmers and cotton growers, we believe that the convocation of this assembly will be an important step toward increasing the level of cotton yield. Cotton: clothes for farmers, workers, and soldiers. Cotton: blankets, matresses, gowns, and other materials that every one of us needs. Therefore, we should increase the production of cotton to meet the needs of people for cotton clothes.

Cotton: currency. Unfortunately, the analyses show that the production of cotton has decreased systematically over recent years. In 1975, cotton farms occupied 112,000 hectares of land and 160,000 tonnes of cotton was produced. In 1986, the farm lands decreased to 69,300 hectares, and cotton production decreased to 60,000 tonnes. Farmers delivered 38,000 tonnes of cotton to factories, cotton gins, and press plants last year.

We know that in the past cotton growing land was specified and farmers were compelled to grow cotton on part of their land. If they defied this, they were fined. We appreciate that our patriotic cotton growers know the importance of increasing the production of cotton, so there is no reason to fine them. We call on you to increase the cultivation of cotton voluntarily. This helps motivate the textile factory workers and facilitates the expansion of exports.

We know that the extremists threaten those who grow cotton. We are grateful to our brave cotton growers who have sowed cotton on their land and heroically defended it.

Cotton output is low. This area's output on average is 200 kg per one-fifth hectare of land, while on the other side of the Amu Darya, it averages 600 kg of cotton per identical land area. Our peasants are hard working people with strong hands, too. They also look after their land. So why do we have less output. But on government farms, particularly in Balkh Province, cotton is being sowed in broad boundaries in utilizing the new agricultural technique where the output of cotton is 600 kg per one-fifth hectare. Let us learn from the [word indistinct] cotton growers.

Dear peasants, some steps have been taken by the government, too, to remove defects and shortcomings in cotton sowing. For example, in [word indistinct] twice the purchase price of cotton went up. Cotton and chemical fertilizer products are being given free of charge, and consumer goods are being supplied to cotton growers at no profit.

The important (?factor) preventing the sowing of cotton is its lower purchase price. The sowing and reaping of this plant takes a long time and requires massive work. Meanwhile, as tests and experience reveal, the gross profit from one-fifth a hectare of land where cotton is sowed is 19,650 afghanis, while rice makes a profit of 26,796 afghanis, and wheat 7,692 afghanis. Therefore, the peasants refrain from sowing cotton. So that the peasants do not lose money we have decided to double the purchase price of cotton produced in 1988-89. The Council of Ministers will soon issue a resolution to this effect. [applause]

In some regions the distribution of chemical fertilizer to peasants takes place without the completion of chemical processes. This causes various diseases. Government assistance, including interest-free credit and processed cotton products, are not yet being put at the disposal of cotton growers. However, embezzlers make use of this situation. The number of centers for the purchase of cotton dropped from 52 in 1978-79 to the present 27 centers.

Comrade Kobakiwal must correct his approach to the purchase of cotton, together with the leadership delegation of his ministry. It would be correct for the responsibility of caring for cotton growers to rest with one of the assistants of Comrade Kobakiwal, so that he would be responsible for the successful growth in the output of this product.

On land where cotton is sowed, farm machinery is being underused. It is possible to fulfill plans while [word indistinct]. Take their salary, not for the accomplishment of work but for attendance? Is it right for one to work 50 hours on a tractor in one year, and another to work 900 hours, while their salaries are the same? It is necessary for this shortcoming to be removed right away.

There are many other shortcomings in utilizing water. Water wells and canals in some regions are not being cleaned in timely and traditional ways.

I seriously ask the respective ministers to give timely assistance to cotton growers—all the assistance the government can give.

The time for spring planting is approaching. Pass on my request to the peasants to expand the cultivation of cotton. Sow it on unowned and unutilized land. The weather and climatic conditions of our country are suitable for the sowing of medicinal plants such as sunflowers, sesames, and [word indistinct].

The Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform is required to study the possibilities for increasing the output of these products in addition to cotton and medicinal plants.

I am happy to open your assembly today. I am hoping that the decisions of this assembly, through you, reach all peasants and cotton growers in your regions so that they also start sowing cotton and thus enhance the standard of living and progress in the country.

I wish successful work for your assembly. Thank you. [applause]

Bangladesh

Ershad Advocates 'People-Oriented Politics'

BK070328 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] President Ershad has called for introducing people-oriented politics in the country. Addressing a huge public meeting at Kaliganj in Lal Manir Hat District today, he said the people would prove in the coming elections that they believe in constitutional rule and not in indiscipline and terrorism. The president said those who have been indulging in the politics of indiscipline and terrorism do not want the welfare of the people. President Ershad said the people have seen enough of the misdeeds of these political parties when they were in power. The people have rejected them because they suffer in their hands during their rule.

The president visited a mosque at Lal Manir Hat Sadar and donated 2 lakh taka for its renovation. From there he went to Birganj in Dinajpur District to witness the ongoing winter maneuvers of the Army. Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Atiqur Rahman was present.

General Strike Reportedly Paralyzes Dhaka

BK060547 Hong Kong AFP in English 0517 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 6 (AFP)—A general strike called by the opposition to force President Hussain Mohammad Ershad to resign and disrupt elections planned for next month virtually paralyzed Dhaka Saturday.

The dawn-to-dusk nationwide stoppage, the sixth this year, left most of the capital's private and public vehicles off the roads, markets and shops closed and banks and offices with less workers than usual, eye-witnesses said.

A small number of state-owned buses were the only traffic along with about 30 to 40 per cent of Dhaka's 100,000 tricycle rickshaws, which were exempted from the strike, they said.

The strike was called by major opposition groups, led by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party of Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League, as part of a two-week anti-government program announced January 30.

It coincided with the filing of nominations for municipal elections in Dhaka and the cities of Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi scheduled to be held along with parliamentary elections on March 3.

Police sources in Dhaka said security had been tightened and no incidents had been reported as of early Saturday. Reports from other cities and towns were not immediately available.

The opposition has said it will boycott any poll held under Mr. Ershad and called on him to hand over power to a neutral caretaker government, which would oversee impartial elections.

Mr. Ershad, who dissolved parliament in early December after calling a state of emergency to cope with anti-government unrest, has repeatedly rejected the opposition's demands. At a Friday prayers address in Dhaka, he accused the opposition groups of disturbing the peace and creating "social disorder" and said they were "comparable with offenders like killers," the BSS news agency reported.

2 Bombs Explode

BK060904 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] In Bangladesh, several persons were injured in bomb explosions today following a countrywide general strike. Reports say that two bombs have exploded outside a court building. Anti-government demonstrators indulged in stone throwing.

A 12-hour strike called by 21 opposition parties disrupted normal life. Shops and schools are closed and vehicular traffic was off the road. Trains and river ferry services were affected at several parts. The strike began early this morning as part of opposition fresh 15-day agitational program.

In another development, newsmen are boycotting all official functions today to protest against the government's ban on newspapers and restrictions on publication of several news magazines. Police and paramilitary forces are patrolling vulnerable points. The opposition parties are demanding President Ershad's resignation and holding of election under a neutral caretaker government.

Opposition Strike Call Fails

BK061638 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] During the program called by three opposition alliances and the Jamiat-i Islami today, government offices, semi-government, and autonomous institutions functioned normally. The attendance in offices was normal. BSS reports commercial establishments and banks, however, remained closed. A good number of rickshaws, BRTC [Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation] buses and a small number of private minibuses plied in the capital. Small shops in kacha [vegetable] bazaars were open. Trains operated from Daulatpur near Khulna to Harihar near Rajshahi. Railway operations at agriculture university station during the morning were suspended. The railway control room in Pakchi could not operate for some time. Official sources said barring these disruptions almost all other trains operated normally.

The ports in Chittagong and Chalna functioned and water transport from (Sabirghat) terminal also functioned normally. Work in the industrial belt in Demra and the Adamji jute mills remained unaffected. Official sources said all but 1 of the 22 enterprises under the Bangladesh chemical industries corporation functioned normally. All 19 units under the steel and engineering corporation were open and 16 sugarmills and the Dhaka vegetable oil industries were in production in full swing. The jute mills have been observing production quota to raise production to meet increased world demand and worked in full swing. All the textile mills except two or three in Chittagong functioned normally.

The sources said some violent incidents left some persons injured in the capital today. One police subinspector and the member of ansars [civil militia] were injured at the Dhaka court premises in a bomb blast. Some people also attacked a nationalized bank branch at Dhaka Museum. Police sources said 13 people were taken into custody.

2 Dead, 100 Reported Injured in Earthquake

BK070454 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0435 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] In Bangladesh, at least 2 persons were killed and over 100 injured when an earthquake of moderate intensity rocked the entire country last night. According to reports available in Dhaka, the tremor, which lasted about 10 to 30 seconds, caused cracks in buildings at some places. People rushed out of their houses in panic. Power supply was also disrupted in Sylhet and other towns.

Repatriation of Stranded Pakistanis Urged

BK060857 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] Chittagong, Jan 29—The chief patron of the Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee, Al-Haj M. Nasim Khan, today demanded of the Pakistan Government to immediately announce a date for repatriation of 25,000 stranded Pakistanis from Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at Chittagong Press Club he accused the Pakistan authorities of adopting dilly-dallying tactics in repatriating the stranded Pakistanis.

He also said the Pakistan Government was not implementing an accord signed between Pakistan and Mecca-based Rabitat al-Alam al-Islami though the latter had given an assurance of providing funds for the repatriation.

India

Gandhi Reiterates Support for PLO Cause

BK061632 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] The prime minister has strongly condemned Israeli atrocities in the occupied Arab territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said at a time when the world opinion is incensed at this violence, concerted efforts should be made at the UN, NAM [Nonaligned Movement] and other forums to seek a just and durable Palestinian settlement.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi reiterated India's unequivocal support to the just Palestinian cause and said an international conference on the Palestinian problem should be convened early under the auspices of the United Nations. It should be attended by all the concerned parties, including the PLO.

The prime minister said India fully supports the convening of such a conference.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi made these observations when the PLO ambassador called on him in New Delhi this evening to apprise him of the situation in the Israeli-occupied territory. A group of heads of mission of the Organization of Islamic Conference also called on the prime minister and informed him about the plight of the Palestinians.

President Accepts Resignation of Labor Minister

BK070602 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] The president, on the advice of the prime minister, has accepted the resignation of Mr P.A. Sangma from the Union Council of Ministers. The minister of steel and mines, Mr M.L. Fotedar, will temporarily hold charge of the Ministry of Labor.

Earthquake Rocks Northeastern Areas

BK070322 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Certain parts of northeastern India experienced tremors varying from severe to moderate intensity last night. An earthquake of severe intensity rocked areas of Tripura and Assam, causing people to run out of their houses. Guwahati and Shillong experienced tremors of moderate intensity. There are no reports of loss of any life or damage to property.

Lt Gen Chatterjee To Head Southern Command

BK060420 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Lieutenant General A.K. Chatterjee has been appointed GOC in C [General Officer Commanding in Chief] of the Southern Command. He will take over on the 1st of next month. He succeeds Lieutenant General Deepender Singh, who will be retiring from service on the last of this month. At present, Lt Gen Chatterjee is the GOC of the corps in the southern sector.

Meghalaya Ministry Led by Congress-I Sworn In

BK061612 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Excerpts] A new ministry headed by the Congress-I leader, Mr P.A. Sangma, was sworn in a short while ago in Meghalaya. The governor, Mr Bhishma Narayan Singh, administered the oath of office and secrecy to 10 cabinet ministers, including Mr Sangma and 1 minister of state. [passage omitted]

Our Shillong correspondent understands that some MLA's [Members of the Legislative Assembly] of the Hill People Union and independents extended their support to the Congress-I for forming the government. The Congress-I emerged as the single largest party winning 22 seats of the 60-member assembly.

Congress-I Coalition Takes Oath in Tripura

BK060330 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Excerpt] In Tripura, a 16-member Congress-I-TUJS [Tripura Upajati Juba Samiti] coalition ministry headed by Mr Sudhir Ranjan Majumder has been sworn in. The state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, administered the oath of office and secrecy to the members of the new ministry at Raj Bhavan [Governor House] in Agartala last night. [passage omitted]

Bombs Thrown at Tripura Congress-I Minister

BK070806 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] In Tripura, some miscreants threw bombs and crackers on the Congress-I minister, Mr (Kashiram Riang), while he was visiting Matarbari constituency in

South Tripura District this morning. Mr (Riang) escaped unhurt, but two children were injured in the incident. Army and CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] personnel are combing the area to nab the culprits.

5 Killed, 4 Injured by Tripura 'Extremists'

*BK060650 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0630 GMT 6 Feb 88*

[Text] A gang of armed TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] extremists attacked a house at village (Satnala) in north Tripura District last night and shot dead five persons and injured four. Quoting police sources, our Agartala correspondent reports that the extremists also set on fire two houses. The injured have been admitted to hospital; the condition of one of them is reported to be serious.

Gurkha Activists Hurl Bombs; Police Arrest 23

*BK061256 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 6 Peb 88*

[Text] The police conducted raids in different parts of Darjeeling Hill area and arrested 23 GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists since yesterday. The arrested included two hardcore GNLF activists from Darjeeling. Police also recovered arms, ammunition, and incriminating documents.

GNLF activists threw two bombs at the house of a police officer in Kalimpong last night. The house was damaged but no one was injured.

'Terrorists' Reportedly Kill 10 in Punjab

*BK080455 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0435 GMT 8 Feb 88*

[Text] In Punjab, 10 persons were shot dead by terrorists in separate incidents last night. Four persons were gunned down and five injured when terrorists opened indiscriminate fire on a gathering at a marriage reception in Kheerawali village in Kapurthala District. The dead included the bridegroom and another woman.

In another incident, four farmers were shot dead by terrorists in Noharkaya village near Sarhalli police station in Amritsar District. One person was shot dead in Toor village. A bullet-ridden body of a Home Guard constable was recovered from a village near Valtoha police station also in Amritsar District.

Iran

Khomeyni Answers Letter on Government Rulings

*LD061310 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 6 Feb 88*

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in reply to a letter from Musavi-Ardabili, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, Ahmad Khomeyni, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and Mir Hoseyn Musavi on methods of exercising the rights of Islamic sovereignty on government rulings, sent them an important message. The text of the letter the gentlemen sent to the imam of the ummah is as follows:

In the name of God. To the sacred presence of the great leader, His Holiness Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, may your gentle existence continue. Your Eminence's recent statements have theoretically removed difficulties noted in the process of legislation and administration in Islamic society. As expected, these guidelines met with the consensus of the authoritative people. The problem that remains is to choose the method of implementing the right of Islamic sovereignty with regard to government rulings.

At present, government bills are discussed first at the respective ministries, then in the respective Cabinet committee, and finally at the Cabinet meeting. After being read in the Majlis, government bills are usually reviewed twice in the specialized committees. These reviews are carried out in the presence of government experts and their ideas are taken into consideration. These views are usually communicated to the committees after being stated and published. Usually a single bill is reviewed in several committees, depending on its contents. Then it has two readings in the plenary session, in which all the Majlis deputies and Cabinet ministers or the deputy ministers of the respective ministries participate. They explain their views based on their specialized knowledge. Then they make amendment proposals.

If a piece of legislation originates in the form of a private member's bill—although initially it does not enjoy the government's expert view—in the committee and the plenary session, it is discussed just like a government bill. After final ratification, the Council of Guardians announces its views within the framework of theological or constitutional rulings. In some cases the Majlis agrees with their views and in other cases the Majlis does not. In some cases, the Majlis and Council of Guardians fail to reach an understanding.

It is here that the need for the jurisconsult to clarify the subjects of the government ruling arises. Although many of these examples are in fact due to differences of views among experts, they concern the issue of Islamic rulings and constitutional generalities.

We have been informed that Your Excellency has decided to appoint an authority to state the soverign body's decision in cases of where the Majlis and the Council of Guardians fail to resolve their differences. The authority should state the sovereign body's decision regarding the sacred faith, constitutional provisions, and the interests of the regime and society.

If you have made a decision regarding this, as at present numerous important issues are undecided, speedy action is desirable.

[Signed] 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, Ahmad Khomeyni, Mir Hoseyn Musavi, Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani

The text of the message of the imam of the ummah is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Although in my view there is no need for this clarification [of legal-theological disputes] after going through all the previous stages under the supervision of the experts in these affairs, yet, for the sake of observing maximum caution, in the event the Majlis and the Council of Guardians fail to reach an understanding on theological and legal points, then an assembly must be set up consisting of the honorable theologians of the Council of Guardian and the Hojjats ol-Eslams Khamene'i, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Musavi-Ardabili, Tavasoli, Musavi-Kho'iniha, and His Excellency Mir Hoseyn Musavi, and the minister concerned. The assembly must discern the interests of the Islamic regime. Other experts can also be invited to attend if necessary. After the necessary consulations, the decision of the majority of those present in the assembly must be accepted.

Ahmad [Khomeyni's son] will take part in this assembly so that reports of the meetings can be brought to me faster. The gentlemen must be aware that the interest of the regime is an important issue. Negligence in this sphere will lead to the defeat of dear Islam.

Today, the world of Islam regards the Islamic Republic regime of Iran as a fully reflective tableau [previous word spoken in French] for the solution of their problems.

The interests of the regime and the people are important. Resistance to this may call Islam and the poor of the earth into question at some time and make the American version of Islam of the arrogant and the conceited, with their billions of dollars of support, victorious through their domestic and foreign agents.

I ask great God to help the gentlemen at this sensitive time.

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni, 6 February 1988

Prime Minister Comments on Khomeyni Letter

LD071310 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] We continue our news reports with Prime Minister Musavi's comments during today's Cabinet session about the reply of the imam of the ummah to the letter written by the country's officials.

Regarding the reply by his eminence the imam to the letter by the country's officials, Prime Minister Musavi said: One of the most important points in the disavowal message of his eminence the imam—and which was further raised in this reply—is that whatever we do in this country is, in any case, a model for and noted by all Muslims. Of course, our steps could be extremely effective in exporting or halting the revolution on an international level. He is worried in case an American-style Islam, leaning toward capitalism and capitalists, may rise in the country instead of this full-blooded and bright revolution, and instead of returning to genuine and noble Islam, or in the event tendencies recur which would slow down or deal blows to the movement of the Islamic Revolution throughout the world. This is a reality and all those who value the revolution must take note of it.

In this matter the government has a major stake. The government's role is greater than that of any other body. We should apply the imam's view to each and every ministry. There were some ambiguities last year, but I believe that the imam has clarified them all. That is why all the brothers must evaluate the tasks, so that they follow the course noted by the imam.

In fact, the imam has spoken in the context of Islam and the Koran. The tasks should be evaluated so that we might discover if they conform to this course, and, God forbid, if we are in the service of arrogant ideologies and capital and capitalists, or if we are in the service of American-style Islam, or if we oppose the ranks of the deprived and barefooted people.

In their meeting, our brothers in the economic sector should remember some of the country's economic activities since the beginning of the revolution and evaluate the good aspects.

There are two viewpoints regarding the development of Third World countries. In fact, the imam has selected one of the two, which we must implement. One of the theses stresses economic growth as a principle. It is said that if this is done, the problem of poverty, ignorance, and oppression will automatically be eased. The other thesis states that basically in Third World countries no development can take place without social justice; and that social justice is a basis for moving toward true development. For, according to the first viewpoint, the assumption of free capital, free money, free investment, and freedom of movement of capitalists in Third World countries will ultimately place the country in the hands of big powers, multinational companies, and major investments in the world, instead of bringing about real development. This is what his eminence the imam noted. The imam has stated clearly and unequivocally that in any case, our movement and development must be in line with Islamic standards, the most important of which, in connection with the running of the country, is looking after the barefoot and oppressed people.

For this reason, each and every one of us must take note of them in whichever office or organization we work.

Terms Khomeyni Decree 'Dynamic'

LD071641 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi today described Imam Khomeyni's decreeing the establishment of the special assembly for exploring ways to enforce state decrees as a "dynamic measure" which will remove a lot of difficulties faced by the country's executive and legislative branches.

The leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni Saturday ordered the formation of a special assembly empowering it to review and enforce state decrees on which the Majlis (parliament) and the Council of Guardians fail to agree.

The premier, speaking to reporters after a cabinet session here, praised Imam Khomeyni's latest injunction as a measure which will not only inspire hope in the hearts of the oppressed people, but will also accelerate the spread of the Islamic revolution to the four corners of the world.

Premier Musavi described the special assembly as a "qualified" panel for studying and resolving current problems and difference of opinion among Iranian officials.

In an effort to get the best result from the special assembly, the government will shortly draw up some manifests and submit to the founder of the Islamic Republic for his approval, Musavi added.

Elsewhere in his talks, the premier said the Persian Gulf has recently seen major developments which demonstrate the ceaseless attacks of arrogant powers on the Islamic revolution on one hand and Iranian people's heroic resistance on the other.

The situation has made regional countries realize that the Islamic Republic is quite capable of driving foreign forces out of the region, noted Musavi adding, the task of maintaining security in the Persian Gulf rests solely on littoral states.

The premier castigated the Iraqi regime for its attempts to hamper Iranian efforts to make the Persian Gulf region free of foreign military forces.

On the first-ever airplane manufactured in Iran, the premier said the aircraft is manufactured by experts of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and that its test-flight was successfully carried out recently.

Interviewed on Khomeyni Letter

LD072247 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] At the end of this morning's Cabinet meeting, our correspondent interviewed the prime minister. We now draw your attention to his answers:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Musavi, in the Cabinet meeting you talked about the letter that his holiness the imam wrote to national officials. In view of his holiness the imam's reply, please tell us how successful we may be in solving the existing problems.

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. This response follows the earlier guidelines issued by his holiness the imam and will be very useful and, God willing, will help to resolve the difficulties in the country's executive and legislative systems. The body appointed by Khomeyni to deal with differences of opinion between the Majlis and the Council of Guardians is a very powerful body, composed of the esteemed Council of Guardians [words indistinct], and the brothers which his holiness the imam has appointed. It is a new composition and naturally, they are quite aware of the difficulties, problems, and requirements of the country, the people, the Muslims, and the Muslim world. It is only natural that at times there are differences of opinion regarding various issues and certain difficulties. The issue will be discussed there.

There was a great deal of discussion in the Cabinet session and it was pointed out that the message of his holiness the imam is in two parts: the first part and especially the latter part which contains some valuable points and which provides guidance, namely, what direction our economic policy and our laws should take. There he refers to the danger of U.S.-backed Islam. Here we should provide a suitable model that can provide hope to the barefoot people of the world and to create a movement among them. At the moment, the influence of the Islamic Revolution is such that whatever we do here will be noticed by the barefoot ones and the oppressed. It is natural that our laws and our movements should mobilize the people of the world in favor of true Islam [words indistinct].

It is natural that in order that the discussions proceed properly and that we achieve proper results, God willing, certain regulations will be drawn up for his holiness the imam's approval.

[Correspondent] My second question is about the participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Gulf Cooperation Council session [words indistinct]. Regarding those countries that have taken positions in order to get closer to the Islamic Republic of Iran, do you believe there been some changes in their position, and if so, what is your analysis as head of the government?

[Musavi] The exchange of delegations and these talks and discussions are based on realities which come about in regional or in international relations. The Persian Gulf has witnessed some very extensive activity during the past few months, mainly the onslaught of the arrogant powers trying to suppress the Islamic Revolution and our resistance which has defeated all those plans and plots. The policies which the arrogant powers were trying to impose on the region have been completely transformed—as a natural result of our steadfastness and with our fighters' resistance—while we have not taken one step backward. Under such conditions, it is natural that the southern countries in the Persian Gulf will also see the truth of the matter and our steadfast strength, and will realize that we are serious about our slogans about confronting arrogance and removing any power from the region.

In view of the new situation which has arisen—and I regard most of it as the result of the steadfastness of our nation—they are returning to the invitation which we offered from the beginning, namely, that Persian Gulf security should be in the hands of neighboring and regional countries, that foreign forces should leave the region, and that these countries can work together in peace and security and in a reasonable atmosphere. These are the combinations of events which are occuring here.

Naturally this policy is not regarded favorably by Iraq which tries to wreck it. Saddam's regime and its supporters will want to wreck it. What concerns us is that, on the basis of our earlier invitation, we used to tell them that collaboration with a powerful country like Iran and joint efforts to establish security in the region would be better than backing Saddam's regime and binding their fate to Saddam's or to rely upon the superpowers vast war fleet. The futility of relying on superpowers has been made clear and it was demonstrated that when a nation has the will to confront them, it can stand up to them.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Commentary Examines Khomeyni Guidance

LD071455 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1112 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Station commentary: "The Formation of the Assembly for Discerning the Interests of the System"]

[Excerpts] The 7th day of the auspicious 10 Days of Dawn coincided with the decree to form the important and crucial assembly that will discern the interests of the system and of government rule by his holiness the imam. It is good to discuss this important issue on the 7th day of the 10 Days of Dawn, which has been named after the Islamic Revolution and the oppressed. [passage omitted] With the order to form the assembly to discern the interests of the Islamic system following the recent decrees of his holiness the imam, the fundamental obstacles for resolving tne problems of society have now been removed. Moreover, the situation regarding various important and fundamental issues of the country must be clarified by a majority vote of the assembly members.

In his important decree, his holiness the imam refers to the interests of the system as an important issue that if ignored, will result in Islam's defeat. The world is watching the Islamic Republic of Iran today as the model and the base for the international Islamic Revolution. The sharp eyes of observers do not miss the smallest action by this system. The oppressed and deprived Muslims of the world see the realization of their hopes and dreams in the system of the Islamic Republic and strengthen their hope on the basis of the activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the words of his holiness the imam, the Muslims of the world, those who thirst for right and justice, consider the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran the complete solution to their problems, and thus any laxity and hesitation in resolving social and economic problems will be attributed to revolutionary Islam and the young system of the Islamic Republic by enemies who will then preach American-style Islam. The deep and serious attention given to the interests of society and the system is in these circumstances among the most important and fundamental responsibilities of the officials of the country. Any hesitation in this important matter will result in serious and heavy responsibilities. God forbid, if Islam suffers from this, then everyone will be responsible in the eyes of the Almighty. [passage omitted]

Officials of the country and particularly members of the assembly must discover what sort of activities will attract those nations that are deprived of Islam and will satisfy those who thirst for justice and right, and what sort of activities will please world-devourers and enemies of Islam. There is nothing more satisfying for world-devourers than to announce to the world the Islamic Republic's need to resolve its economic and social problems. There is no doubt that any step taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran to resolve national economic and social problems will be a blow to the enemies of Islam and a spark of hope for those who seek Islam's way and the Muslim revolutionaries of the world.

In his historical message to the pilgrims to the house of God—a message that has rightly been called the charter of the revolution—his holiness the imam stressed this important issue. He stated: There is no doubt that the world-devourers fear the bias of the spirit of Islamic economics toward the support of the oppressed as much as they fear the sacrificing values and martyr-seeking attitude of our nation. It is certain that the more our country moves toward the eradication of poverty and the defense of the oppressed then the hope of the world-devourers will be reduced and the inclination of the nations of the world toward Islam will increase. The dear clergy must pay deep attention to this issue. [passage omitted]

Now with the selection of the assembly to discern the interests of the Islamic Republic, which includes the heads of the three government branches, there should no longer be any hesitation in making fundamental decisions for the country or in drafting laws. The status of important issues, particularly the unresolved economic issues, must now be quickly resolved in order to strengthen the hopes of the deprived and oppressed of the world.

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

First Sermon on Islamic System

LD052051 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1533 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i on 5 February at Tehran University—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The topic discussed last week concerned Islamic rule and the rule of the jurisconsult, which is the spirit of the Islamic system. Our discussion revolved around this fundamental axis. I promised to present two or three necessary and fundamental topics with regard to this issue. However, first let me refer briefly to one item, and that is: During the preliminary stages and first centuries of Islam, the chief issue and fundamental difference between the leading powers—that is the House of 'Abbas and the household of the prophet of God—was the issue of the imamate. There were struggles, clashes, disputes, and the crushing of opponents because the imams—may God's praise be upon them—were expounding on the subject of the imamate of the Muslims. Then, during recent times, particularly during the past 2 centuries in the world of Islam, the real substance of disputes among the Muslims and colonialist powers was the issue of Islamic rule. If the motive and demand for the rule of Islam were to be eliminated, then there would be no room for so much hostility against and interference in Islam and the Muslims on the part of the powerful. The chief issue at stake is the sovereignty of Islam. If the action of Muslims and Islamic edicts, that is, these very same edicts governing personal behavior and rituals of worship, were not to harm the sheep and cows of the world's powerful, and were not to threathen their hegemony seeking and colonialist policies, then they would not have any pretext to fight Islam. The slogan "Separate religion from politics," which, during recent times, during the past 100 or 150 years, was publicized among the Muslims by the colonizers, had its source in this very issue. They would not fight Islam if it were just a question of prayers, fasting, and other aspects of worship without the motivation and desire for the sovereignty of Islam, and the sovereignty of Islamic policies.

Thus you can see that in Islamic countries, there are, in some cases, some persons who conform outwardly to Islamic practices, but their policies and moves and general positions of their countries exactly match the demands of colonialist and arrogants' policies. Under the last corrupt regime it was just like this, as far as apparent Islamic behavior and worship were concerned. There was no talk of politics, and no threat directed at the rule of the evil ruler. There was no hostility. So you may note how important the issue of sovereignty is in Islam. Just as it was mentioned in another sermon, the issue of sovereignty, the spirit of Islam, and the masterpiece of the beautiful religion of Islam are inscribed in the scroll of the Islamic society and the Islamic system.

Today I will be talking about the Islamic style of governorship and the absolute rule of the jurisconsult, the order of succession from God the Almighty, transferred to the prophet, and then transferred from the prophet to others—as accepted by all Muslims. There is an important point here which I shall present to you in one sentence, and then this point will become clear in the course of the discussion. It is this: Islamic rule, as defined by us, and the basis of the Islamic Republic, is accepted by all Muslims in its entirety, and in a special manner, it is the most prominent and most progressive way [shiveh] that is put forward and discussed among Muslims with regard to the question of rule. In the Koran, as it was mentioned last week, rule fundamentally belongs to God, and the Almighty does not accept any partners in His rule. [passage omitted]

In today's world of Islam, Muslims believe that if someone becomes a ruler from among the people, then he should be obeyed. So Muslims have transferred the obedience of the prophet as the vice regent to other individuals in society. This takes various forms. There may be some brothers among the Sunni sect who may have extreme views in this respect and would believe that immaterial of whether this ruler is faithless, corrupt, or a lackey, he still must be obeyed. However, the majority of our Sunni brothers believe that the Islamic government that belonged to the prophet would be transferred to some individuals who are normal people without corruption or debauchery. Meanwhile, we have an ideology here. If we presented it to the world of Islam, it would most probably accept it. We say let us now have nothing to do with the early period of Islam. We do not want to raise debate and contention among the Shi'as and the Sunnis on the question of succession in the dawn of Islam. We do not like the idea of such a debate being raised.

However, during the period of the absence of the infallible beings, that is, the period during which we too believe there is no innocent leader in society, then we ask who is better qualified to have the mantle of governorship?

Our belief, and belief in the vice regency, is that the governorship, which belongs to God, and which was transferred to the prophets and then to the prophet of Islam, is now transferred to a human who commands immaculateness and piety to the standard of justice. That governorship is transferred to a human being who is immaculate and pious; somebody who does not commit sins, does not indulge in injustice, does not show a tendency to the enemies of God, who is obedient to God's orders, opposes weakness of the flesh, and has control over his physical desires. He must be fully conversant with the Koran. That is, he must have the power to understand Islam as a fully qualified theologian. He must know the faith, he must be able to distinguish God's commands from other bases and contracts. He must know and understand the Koran. He must know and understand the sayings on the prophet's behavior, and have the power of understanding.

In addition to being a fully qualified theologian and being just, he must have management capability. He must be a man in possession of the necessary management skills and intelligence, and also understand the needs of the time. He must recognize the enemies of Islam. He must know the world. [passage omitted]

These three conditions must come together to make a man who is qualified to have governorship—governorship, which belongs to God and to the prophet. If in a specific period of time there were several individuals who were qualified as such, then the selection of the vice regent to assume such a great position falls on the people. This is a point which exists in our Constitution. It is also seen in the practice of the Lord of the faithful during the dawn of Islam. [passage omitted] That was a summary of our ideology on the rule of the jurisconsult. [shouts of approval, slogans] [passage omitted]

At present, when this governorship has to be bestowed on a human being, the question arises as to who takes precedent over others. Who is most qualified? Who can most inspire confidence? Is the person who does not know Islam, faith, and the Koran, who possibly does not believe in the Koran, in the God of Koran, and the messenger of the Koran, qualified to come to govern the Muslims? Or one who knows the Koran? One who reads the Koran? One who is fully versed in religion? One who can obtain the Islamic rules from Islamic sources without having to seek guidance from others?

Naturally, this second person is more qualified. When comparing a corrupt, debauched and perverted person who is dependent on powers ignorant of mankind's salvation with a person who is just, pious, and obedient to God, then it is natural that the second person must take precedence, to govern the affairs of the Muslims. The other condition, that he must be qualified and competent to manage affairs, is also based on wisdom and logic. Anyone who lacks the qualification to manage cannot be appointed to manage anything, even something small. This too is a mandatory condition.

Thus, our conviction in the rule of the jurisconsult, the way we define it, and the way it is based in the Islamic regime corresponds to the text of the Koran, to the Islamic principles, as well as with sound wisdom. [passage omitted]

Second Sermon on Islamic Revolution

LD052301 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1719 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i on 5 February at Tehran University—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Prayers and chants] First, I congratulate all you dear worshippers, the entire Iranian nation, and our great Islamic ummah, particularly the imam, our great leader—who himself was the instrument and leader of this immense movement on the occasion of the 10 Days of Dawn celebrations, which was the dawn for the Islamic ummah after the dark night of hardship, depression, and decadence. Today, this auspicious gathering of ours and our glorious prayers are honored by the presence of foreign guests. There are 70 guests from the 6th Conference of Islamic Thought, 70 sisters participating in the International Congress of Women, a group of our dear warriors, our proud and dear sacrificers from the 23d Corps of the special forces of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, together with a number of students, the dear ones from the schools for children of the martyrs, present in today's gathering. [passage omitted]

The fundamental issue continuously being discussed these days is that of the dawn of the Islamic Revolution. I also wish to address myself to this issue and will briefly look at some of the highlights. The matter of our revolution and the great victory of the Iranian nation, the formation of the Islamic republican system, is truely unrecognized and unknown in this era, particularly in our area where we are involved with events and aware of issues. It is still not possible to correctly evaluate it. My belief is that the leaders of world powers and the oppressive circles of the world have recognized the greatness of this event more than we have. Because we were involved with the events, we can not really feel the immensity of the events that took place in Iran. Whatever happened has happened. My own analysis is that it was a holy miracle, the victory of our revolution. Of course, when we say a miracle, it does not mean that such a thing can not be repeated in other parts of the world and that it is unique. No, whatever conditions that resulted in this event in our country will result in a similar event, a miracle, wherever the same conditions occur. The main conditions are faith and crusade, awareness, and sacrificial struggle with awareness. With an aware and clear leadership and a deep faith in the hearts of the people, followed by general awareness and a crusade and complete resistance... [crowd interrupts with chants] Under such conditions—whatever their extent in the world, there will be victory to the same level—the enemy will retreat. An example of this is Lebanon; a more recent example is the Muslims of Palestine. When we deal a blow, the enemy will suffer equally and will weaken. Our blows crush the enemy. Should these blows continue until the enemy is brought to its knees, then we have results. If it does not go that far, there will be progress, as long as people carry out their crusade and struggle combined with awareness. This is a fact. [passage omitted]

One can assume that the great victory of Islam is a prelude to other victories. Indeed, today we see examples of such victories in the world of Islam. Today, in reactionaries' countries, where the Muslims enjoy a deep and expanded culture while dominated by reactionary governments, you can see that Muslims have awakened and are struggling. One can presume, God willing, that the power of Islam will be victorious over the force of infidelity.

This is the importance of our revolution. I do not want to discuss the events that took place during the period of revolution, events about which, thanks to God, good programs are being presented on radio and television. [passage omitted]

One of the greatest achievements of our revolution is the appearance of very deep Islamic attitudes throughout the world of Islam. In which Islamic country did Muslims think of struggling for their Islam, for their Koran, religion and faith? They were busy living their lives in ignorance. In some places there were parties in the name of Islam, but for the most part they were weak. Yes, some leftist parties are active in some areas. The leftist parties, leftist ideologies managed to use the deep feeling of the youth in many countries; however, not Islam. Nobody in the world of Islam even considered that Islam is capable of such a massive power of mobilization that would enable it to attract so many soldiers from among the nations, show such power, and overcome the enemy. Nobody thought in these terms. Our revolution removed such ignorance from Islamic societies.

Look at Lebanon. The issue of Lebanon is an important issue. A handful of Muslim youths, encircled by many enemies and animosities have been able to prove their independence and character. Muslims of Lebanon, whether they are students, clerics, leaders, women, young girls—all brave, faithful and loving—have become a force in the Middle East and in the eyes of the world.

The matter of Palestine is a very important issue. In the occupied lands the ruling apparatus and the majority of its people living there have religious, racial, and political differences with the Palestinians and treat them with every harsh means possible. Yet you see on television that how bravely all elements of society stand against such harshness. This is Islamic motivation. How did the idea appear among the people, who had formed the habit of going outside their land, to form terrorist groups and to occasionally attack? The Palestinians who had organized themselves outside Palestine, and not around Islamic ideals, created a number of incidents, and then started taking political advantage of it and making political deals. This is something the Palestinian leaders are doing now. They are busy with political deals. They go all over the world, are guests of this king or that president, have fun in these hotels and other places, and speak in the name of Palestine.

The struggle in Palestine was in a deplorable state, it had reached a ridiculous condition. There was no struggle in Palestine. In such an absence, Islam moved them. This is a blessing of our revolution. This is an achievement.

It was the same in Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and many other countries. This is one of the achievements of the revolution, that has rekindled the motivation of the Islamic movement, hope in the Islamic future, in self-reliance, and reliance on God among Muslim societies. They realized that it is possible. This is another achievement. [passage omitted]

There were developments at more or less the same time as ours in a number of other countries. There were revolutions. Where else can you find such immense feeling and excitement? They can only be found Only on the war fronts, in the arena of mobilization, in the streets and avenues during demonstrations with women with babies in their arms, among all strata of society in the course of Friday prayers, in other places, where the matter of making the message of the revolution known is concerned, where there is a need for presence. Everyone appears without the least hesitation.

For the past several months, since the start of the large maneuvers in the cities, when people were invited to participate, the third 100,000-strong corps, the Hazrat-e Zahra Corps, has begun mobilization. The Hazrat-e Rasul and Amir al-Mom'enin Corps were mobilized. This is the third 100,000-strong corps during the mobilization. After this will be the Imam Hasan and Imam Hoseyn Corps and the 14th innocent ones [as heard]. What sort of infinite power is this among the people? What sort of desire and infinite excitement exists among the people? These people are prepared and present in full force when there is need for financial sacrifice, or to sacrifice life. Despite all efforts of the enemies' propaganda machinery, no harm has come to the popular faith. [passage omitted]

I want to give a message to the world's large powers. Do not cause so many problems for yourselves. Do not oppose this nation and its system so strenuously. Gone are the first few years of the revolution when you had hopes. We have entered our 10th year, and the system is established. We have the same power and same excitement. This republic is guaranteed. The flag has been raised. The United States, Britain, France, and other Western and Eastern powers will face more ridiculous defeats the stronger they oppose the Islamic Republic. [chants, prayers]

UN Representative Assesses Resolution 598

NC051914 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1642 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Interview with Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati, the Islamic Republic's representative to the United Nations, by unidentified announcer via direct telephone link—live]

[Text] [Announcer] Greetings, Mr Mahallati. I am speaking to you from the news service of the First Network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Please discuss how successful the Islamic Republic has been in justifying its principled views on the imposed war to the Security Council and General Assembly members, despite the efforts by the Iraqi regime and its mentors.

[Mahallati] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. In the past 2 months, the efforts by Iraq's mentors in the Security Council for approving a second resolution on an arms embargo against the Islamic Republic of Iran have ended. After that, the Security Council issued a statement on 24 December which on the one hand called on the secretary general to continue his efforts, and on the other referred to Paragraph 10 of Resolution 598 and implied that the Security Council will begin its activities, in conjunction with the secretary general's activities, to issue the resolution on the embargo. In our talks with the secretary general and with the relatively more independent members of the Security Council during the past 2 months, we explained the Islamic Republic's position. We said that Iran reaffirms its readiness, in the last round of talks, to implement the secretary general's plan and that the Security Council is not justified in starting activities parallel to the secretary general's efforts because it lacks the basis to do so. With our explanations, the Security Council's efforts, in parallel with the secretary general's plans, were stopped. Also the British president of the Security Council withdrew the draft of a resolution he had propounded, and the Security Council's activities were stopped, pending the secretary general's efforts to re-establish contacts with the representatives of the two countries to see how he can continue the talks.

There are two principal differences between the secretary general's plan and Resolution 598. First, the main difference between the paragraph on the cease-fire and on the issue of withdrawal has been fully clarified. In Resolution 598, the cease-fire and the withdrawal were mentioned as one step and were included in the same paragraph. In the secretary general's plan a specific timetable has been suggested, and this timetable actually ensures the conditions Iran has stated for a cease-fire. These conditions, as we have previously stated, are that an international competent committee be formed and declare that Iraq was the initiator of the aggression. Only then will the Islamic Republic of Iran be ready for a cease-fire.

[Announcer] Thank you, Mr Mahallati. Actually, you have answered our second question on the differences in Resolution 598 and the secretary general's plan. My last question is: Last week the UN secretary general met separately with you and with the Iraqi regime's representatives. He then submitted a report to the Security Council. What can you tell our viewers about this?

[Mahallati] During our last round of talks with the secretary general the Islamic Republic's positions were fully explained. The problem was that because Iraq was at an impasse and could not actually state its main positions against a just peace, it refused to answer the secretary general. The secretary general then had to ask Iraq officially to answer his requests, and in a letter, Iraq once again put forward its former, unprincipled stands. The outcome of this was that last week the secretary general had to submit a report on his discussions with us and Iraq. This report included the Islamic Republic's views, but it was silent about Iraq, because Iraq's position is unprincipled. The result of this report was that the Security Council stopped acting on the embargo resolution, and it was agreed that the secretary general would continue his efforts to implement his plan. Following this, the Iraqi embassy issued two press communiques, both of which strongly attacked the Islamic Republic's diplomatic activities in the United Nations, and Iraq warned both Security Council members and the secretary general not to be fooled by the Islamic Republic's diplomacy. Most correspondents realize how concerned and worried Iraq is.

[Announcer] Thank you, Mr Mahallati, for granting us this direct television interview.

[Mahallati] Thank you.

Commentary on Iraq's Diplomatic Efforts in UN

LD061345 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1116 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Commentary entitled: "The Unstable State of Iraq's UN Diplomacy"]

[Text] With the diplomatic defeat of Iraq's friends in the United Nations in their support for the regime ruling over Baghdad, based on the declaration of an arms embargo against the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq's friends are now trying to find a way of exerting propaganda pressure. The Iranian UN representative mentioned this issue, adding that by electing the U.S. representative as the rotating chairman of the Security Council, these attacks have increased.

The United States and Britain, with the assistance of some other European countries, have embarked on new efforts during the past 2 months to obtain the ratification of a resolution from the Security Council concerning an arms embargo and to apply pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran. These measures met with defeat due to nonacceptance of their demands by other members of the Security Council. Also, the impact and influence of Iran's diplomacy in the United Nations and the presentation of Iran's reasoned and logical views resulted in rendering fruitless the efforts of factions that support the Iraqi regime.

On the other hand, UN diplomatic sources said: During the past Christian month, Britain proposed a 2-year arms embargo on Iran. Britain held the chairmanship of the Security Council during January, and it held secret meetings with five permanent members of the Security Council. However, these meetings did not bring any practical success for Britain insofar as reaching a solution that resulted in an arms embargo on Iran was concerned, and here the positions adopted by the Soviet Union and China should be noted.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi regime, simultaneously with the defeat of the Security Council talks, despatched Tariq 'Aziz, the foreign minister of that country, to Moscow. During many trips to some countries that were instrumental to the arms embargo project, he tried to draw their attention to an arms embargo. Despite this, reports received from the United Nations indicate that the secretary general, in carrying out his positive activities in advancing UN objectives, has taken a step in resolving this problem by presenting the complementary plan of Resolution 598. The efforts of the secretary general were directed toward executing the instructions of the Security Council issued toward the end of the last Christian year, and by conducting bilateral talks between the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq, the secretary general succeeded in presenting new proposals to the Security Council.

The new project of the United Nations secretary general includes a timetable for the execution of Resolution 598. Also, Paragraph 5 of the secretary general's project raises the question of the dispute between the two countries over their joint sea and land borders and that until these borders have been settled one cannot expect Resolution 598 to be implemented and withdrawal to take place. The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly said that a cease-fire in the war must be based on a criteria that is to name the Iraqi regime as the aggressor. The Iraqi regime says that first there must be a cease-fire, but it ignores the fact that the criteria for a cease-fire declaration, which is the naming of the aggressor, must first be announced by the United Nations. In any case, the reasoned viewpoint of the Islamic Republic of Iran caused the supporters of the regime of Iraq to adopt a defensive position and confused the diplomacy of Iraq in such a way that they are now endeavoring, through propaganda clamorings and by insisting on adopting so-called peaceseeking positions, to conceal this defeat.

Khamene'i Speech to Muslim Women's Congress

LD061947 Tehran IRNA in English 1839 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 6, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i inaugurated here today the first-ever international congress on women and the world Islamic revolution, marking the birth anniversary of the noblest lady of Islam the prophet lady of Islam the prophet's daughter Hazrat Fatima Zahra (AS), which coincides with the 10 Days of Dawn celebrations this year.

In his inaugural speech, the president noted that the so-called politico-social rights Western societies claim to confer on women is merely aimed at exploiting them as means of pleasure and using them as commercial objects and to procure more votes.

It was Islam which elevated woman to a lofty position granting here rights and honour in the society, said Khamene'i, pointing that Muslim woman attained dignity and splendor in the real sense of the words 14 centuries ago.

A millenium after Islam provided Muslim women with an enviable personality, Western societies began to think of political and social rights for women, continued the president adding [as recieved], but the corrupt Western societies utterly failed to do justice to the woman and sacrificed her personality for the selfish pleasures of men and the greed of politicians and capitalists.

The president also criticized Western culture for degrading the woman and said proudly that a truly Islamic community is never ashamed of rejecting perverted Western concepts.

Khamene'i who also heads the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) said, in societies based on strong foundations where men and women share the same ideology, both should struggle and shoulder the burden together. This is an accepted principle of the Islamic revolution, he added.

The SDC head lauded Iranian women for their key role in the victory of the Islamic revolution and for their fervent enthusiasm for its goals.

Islam urges women to strive and reach perfection which has no limits nor does it stop at any point and therefore has granted her a right to serve society as a scholar, inventor, philosopher, teacher, physician or even an active politician, Khamene'i said.

The president also castigated those responsible for insulting women through biased or incorrect policies over the recent decades particularly Western societies in which the spirit of materialism prevails.

Kharrazi Comments on Visit to Lebanon

LD070755 Tehran IRNA in English 0740 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb 7, IRNA—Head of Iran's War Information Headquarters Kamal Kharrazi returned to Tehran Saturday night at the end of an eight-day visit to Lebanon.

He told reporters here that he had visited Lebanon primarily with the idea of learning more about the current status of Muslims in that country as well as their struggle against the occupying Zionists and Antoine Lahd's army.

The Iranian war information official said with respect to the urgency of the situation in that country and in light of the on-going struggle of Palestinian Muslims against the Zionist regime his visit to Lebanon was inevitable.

Kharrazi who doubles as managing director of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) noted that the more knowledgeable Muslims have a commitment to give due and unbiased coverage of the news of Muslims's struggles in Palestine and elsewhere in the region in the interests of the Islamic revolution in the occupied territories.

The Iranian war information official said in Beirut and western Al-Biqa' Valley the rising Muslims are putting up a firm resistance against the Zionist and that they have dealt effective blows on them. He added in battles with Zionist troops, the struggling Muslims had seized four armoured vehicles and many other weapons.

Kharrazi noted that the bold resistance of Muslim militants has demoralized Zionist troops and Lahd's army. He observed that in the wake of each attack by Muslims a substantial number of Lahd's men either resign or flee, and that the Zionists' resort to such savage devices as shelling civilian quarters in southern Lebanon has fallen short of intimidating the rising Muslims in that country.

He said the Islamic Movement in Lebanon now inspires Palestinians in the occupied territories, and continues to win fresh and enthusiastic supporters from the masses. He noted that the continued armed resistance of Lebanese Muslims has already proved that they will never opt for political solutions for their plight.

Kharrazi said during his visit to Lebanon he had exchanged views with a number of influential Muslim leaders in that country and added that the Islamic Republic would heed their viewpoints for coordinating publicity operations for the Islamic movement in Lebanon.

Interviewed by AL-SAFIR

LD051726 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Beirut, Feb. 5, IRNA—Head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Dr. Kamal Kharrazi in an interview with Lebanese daily AL-SAFIR here Thursday once again called for punishment of the Iraqi regime as Iran's main condition for ending the Iraqi-imposed war.

Kharrazi who is also managing director of the Islamic Republic News Agency criticized international organizations including the U.N. for having fallen short of taking any measure in this regard and said that Iran has, therefore, no alternative but to take steps towards punishment of the aggressor.

The WIH head said that the international organizations are only killing time, with respect to the Iraq-Iran war and are turning a deaf ear to Iran.

He reiterated that the Islamic Republic is for resumption of friendly relations with the Persian Gulf states and lauded the Syrian Government for its mediation between these countries and Iran.

IRNA's managing-director, who was talking to the Lebanese daily AL-SAFIR said that Iran has a double approach to the Saudi Arabia [as received], one is within the framework of the Persian Gulf littoral states and the other within the Riyadh regime's aproaches.

He said "if Saudi Arabia wants to improve its relations with the Islamic Republic, it should, as a primary step, solve the [as received] July 31 Mecca carnage of pilgrims by Saudi police."

Commenting on Tehran-Moscow relations, Kharrazi described them as improving and said that Irano-Soviet relations have so far expanded in several fields. However, he noted, Moscow's realistic approaches to various issues would help promote the mutual ties.

On foreign hostages held in Lebanon, the WIH head made it clear that the Islamic Republic has been the first victim of hostage-taking issue in Lebanon, noting that four Iranian diplomats including Iran's charge d'affaires to Beirut have been held hostage since 1982.

Elsewhere in his interview, Kharrazi praised the Lebanese Muslims for their heroic resistance against the Zionist regime, and pledged Iran's full support for any anti-Zionist struggle free from communal or factional motives.

He said the motive behind the Palestinian Muslims' uprising in the occupied lands is Islam, and that they are inspired by the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Transport Company To Be Established With Turkey

LD061821 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Ankara, Feb. 6, IRNA—Iran and Turkey will establish a joint transport company during the current Christian year, said Turkish Minister of Roads and Transportation Ekrem Pakdemirli in a meeting with Iranian Ambassador in Ankara Manuchehr Motaki here Friday.

Among other topics discussed by the two sides were current obstacles in the way of land transportation between Iran and Turkey and further use of transport facilities of the two countries.

Pakdemirli and Motaki also underiined the need for shipment of goods between the two countries via train. The Turkish minister expressed hope that his country could transfer its oil imports from Iran by goods train.

In response, Motaki called for further use of facilities at Turkish Black Sea ports in transferring cargo to Iran.

Iranian roads and Transportation Minister Mohammad Seyyed Kya is scheduled to pay an official visit to Ankara on 18th February.

Meanwhile, prelimiary talks of the joint Tehran-Ankara economic commission are to start in Tehran on 21st February to draw up the sixth protocol on mutual economic and commercial cooperation.

The outcome of talks between the preliminary delegations will be endorsed and inked by Iranian Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani and Turkish Minister of State for Economic Affairs Yusuf Ozal during their meeting in Tehran on 24th February.

It has been announced here that Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal will depart for Tehran on 28th February at the head of a top level politico-economic delegation for an official visit and talks with high-ranking Iranian officials.

The volume of a protocol for economic cooperation signed between Iran and Turkey last year was dollars 2 billion, dlrs 1.4 billion of which has so far been realized.

Sheykh ol-Eslam on Futility of Arms Embargo

LD071515 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 7 Feb 88

[From the "Holy Defense Program"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Let us hear a brief analysis by Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Sheykh ol-Eslam. Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, will you comment on the U.S.-sponsored plan for an arms embargo against the Islamic Republic of Iran?

[Begin Sheykh ol-Eslam recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to the imam of the ummah and our martyr-nurturing ummah. I am delighted to have this opportunity to explain a number of issues to the esteemed listeners. I must clarify two points regarding the arms embargo. First, war materiel is not a decisive factor in the war imposed by Saddam against us. [passage omitted] We already know that blood wins over the sword. It is a lesson of 'Ashura and our revolution. We have defended ourselves against guns, tanks, and machineguns empty handed in the course of our own revolution by calling out this lesson as a slogan. The war has been conducted in the same manner up to now.

Second, we now have a high capability to manufacturing our own arms. We are now manufacturing many items that we once purchased at extortionate rates at the start of the war. We have made great advances in electronic warfare. As you have witnessed, both the IRGC and the armed forces have manufactured missiles superior to their foreign counterparts and are less costly. These are at the production-line stages and some are already in use at the fronts.

Today, our capability for dealing with and also manufacturing chemical weapons is among the best in the world. This is borne out by the highest concentration of weapons deployed against our innocent people. Another point to be noted is that every weapon with a killing rate of 20 is used to its full extent by every Iranian fighter, while the same weapon in the hands of the best trained soldier in the world is used at the rate of 15-16. The Iraqi capability rates at only seven or eight. Our high-flying pilots in the Air Force and the Airborne Army Units use the best equipment at their disposal in an effective manner against the enemy forces. The manufacturers of the same aircraft are proud of the way the Iranians are using the aircraft. [passage omitted]

In general, I must say that arms are not a decisive factor in our view, although we possess the technology and production lines for many advanced weapons, and we are busy improving others. If an arms embargo is imposed on us, I believe that it will be more fruitful for us because necessity is the mother of invention and progress. When arms became too expensive for us we manufactured them domestically, and when they stop the flow of arms our capabilities will improve. [end recording]

Perez de Cuellar Rejects Idea of UN Gulf Force

LD071115 Tehran IRNA in English 1032 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] London, Feb. 7, IRNA—The U.N. secretary general has rejected an appeal from British Seamen to set up a U.N. force to protect neutral shipping in the Persian Gulf.

The plea was made by the deputy leader of the National Union of Marine, Air and Shipping Transport Officers (NUMAST), John Newman, who had flown to New York to meet Perez de Cuellar Friday.

Perez de Cuellar was said to have stressed that there was no mandate for such an international force and that there was no will from governments to set one up.

The U.N. secretary general is tied by the Security Council members and Newman said that Perez de Cuellar believed world governments would not give him much support in efforts to resolve the war.

Newman has been at the front of Seamen's concerns about the escalating attacks on shipping in the Persian Gulf and has frequently condemned world governments for their failure to stop the raids, which have killed 12 of his officers and over 300 seamen altogehter.

Last year he accused the U.S. and the U.K. of exacerbating the situation by their military build-up in the Persian Gulf, which he felt was more designed to support Iraq's war effort against Iran than to uphold the freedom of navigation.

Newman further pushed the U.N. secretary general to impose an arms embargo against both Iraq and Iran but again Perez de Cuellar was understood to have said that such matters were not in his hands but in those of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

'Fajr' Project Airplane Ready for Flight

LD071223 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] The first plane built under the IRGC's "Fajr" project is ready for its maiden flight. In an interview with our correspondent today Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi explained the special features of the aircraft. He said: All the components of the "Fajr" project aircraft have been manufacturd by Iranian specialists and the test flights have been successful.

REUTER Cited on U.S. Oil Tanker Attack

LD071112 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] REUTER, quoting shipping sources in the region, reports that a U.S. oil tanker was hit this morning by speedboats near the northern coasts of the UAE. The report indicates that the attack happened at 0220 and as a result the engine room and the crew's rest room of the 64,140-ton tanker "Diane", was set on fire.

The report adds that the tanker belongs to the North American Shipping Agency of New York and flies the Liberian flag.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

One Husayn Residence Ablaze

LD061801 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Ramadan Headquarters, which oversees unconventional warfare by the IRGC Ground Forces, reports that over the past few days the Seyyed al-Shohada forces downed an enemy helicopter in (Howr al-Naseriyyah) in Iraq's Nasiriyah Province.

They also set fire to one of Saddam's residences in (Al-Sowrah) District in Baghdad. This residence was used for pleasure by the officials of the Ba'thist party and high-ranking officers of that regime. The fighters of Islam, having carried out this operation, returned safely to their bases.

Kurds Attack Iraqis in Irbil

LD091129 Tehran IRNA in English 1038 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA—Muslim forces under the command of Ramadan Headquarters and Hezbollah Peshmergas of Iraqi Kurdistan attacked two Iraqi Ba'thist bases along Diyalah-Quhijan road, Irbil Province, over the past few days killing or wounding 15 Iraqi Ba'thists.

Ramadan Headquarters announced that two enemy vehicles hit mines planted in Seyyed Khan-Sinandar and Seyyed Khan-Sarhajar [placename as received] roads by these forces. All passengers of the two vehicles were killed or wounded.

According to the report Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) ambushed a convoy of Iraqi forces in Irbil Province, setting ablaze a military vehicle, killing or wounding several Iraqi soldiers. KDP forces also captured several Iraqi Ba'thists.

Communique No 3,103

LD051731 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA—Iranian Navy gunboats intercepted and searched 15 cargo ships, oil and gas tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Thursday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied they were not carrying cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Friday.

The 3103rd Joint Staff Communique said that Iranian gunboats also shelled two Iraqi vessels which appeared in the Khawr 'Abdallah waterway in the northern tip of the Persian Gulf yesterday, inflicting heavy losses on them and forcing them to flee.

The Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Thursday in support for the navy despite receiving a warning from a foreign warship.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire between Iran's Muslim combatants and Iraqi troops continued throughout the fronts, especially in Chazabeh, yesterday with the latter suffering heavy casualties and losses.

Iraqi troops incurred heaviest damage to men and equipment west of Jofeyr, southern sector, in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim forces.

In the northwestern fronts, Iranian patrol convoys successfully reconnoitered Iraqi positions yesterday, dealing heavy blow on enemy troops and returning safely to bases.

Iranian artillery fire repelled several Iraqi patrol units in Helaleh and Eynkhosh, western and southern sectors, Thursday, inflicting several casualties on enemy patrols.

In parts of the southern and western fronts, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and parts of enemy positions were set ablaze yesterday when shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces.

Iranian artillery fire shelled Iraqi tank squadrons in Sardasht, Panjwin, Helaleh and Nahr 'Anbar Thursday, inflicting heavy losses on several enemy tanks, concluded the communique.

Communique No 3,104

LD061704 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 6, IRNA—Iran's naval gunboats intercepted 30 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Friday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Saturday.

The 3104th Joint Staff Communique said the Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday to provde air cover for the Navy and reconnoiter positions of foreign vessels in the waterway.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the battlefields Friday with Iran's Muslim combatants suppressing Iraqi military activities.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy positions destroyed in parts of the southern and western sectors in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces Friday.

In the northwestern fronts, Iranian artillery fire suppressed Iraqi logistical activities yesterday and prevented enemy infantry units from setting up barricades or digging bunkers.

Iraqi forces sustained several casualties and losses and movement of enemy motorized columns was checked in Halaleh and Kani-Sheykh, western sector, by Iranian artillery fire Friday.

Attempts by Iraqi helicopters to reconnoiter Iranian positions or land reinforcements in Kushk and Yebis, southern fronts, were aborted by heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire, concluded the communique.

Communique No 3,105

LD071621 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA—Iran's naval frigates intercepted and searched 15 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Saturday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Sunday.

The 3105th Communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said the Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday in support of the navy despite receiving a warning from a foreign warship.

Exchange of artillery fire continued throughout the battlefields Saturday, raging somewhat more heavily in Kushk and Nahr 'Anbar, southern and western sectors and resulting in killing or wounding of several Iraqi soldiers and destruction of some enemy engineering vehicles, bunkers, observation posts and munitions dumps.

Heavy artillery fire of Iran's Muslim combatants silenced fire of Iraqi tanks in Yebis and west of Jofeyr, southern fronts yesterday.

An Iraqi patrol convoy, attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Kharratha, western sector, Saturday sustained several casualties and was forced to flee under Iranian artillery fire.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements and bunkers destroyed in parts of the southern and western sectors, in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces Saturday, concluded the communique.

Pakistan

UN's Cordovez Leaves Islamabad for Kabul

BK070825 Islamabad Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Mr Cordovez, left Islamabad this morning for Kabul on his third visit during his current shuttle to the area to prepare for the next round of proximity talks in Geneva on Afghanistan. He will have discussions with the Kabul authorities on residual issues in view of the talks he had with Pakistani leaders in Islamabad and the Afghan alliance leaders in Peshawar.

Returns From Kabul 7 Feb

BK080348 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Diego Cordovez, the UN secretary general's representative on Afghanistan, returned to Islamabad last night after a brief visit to Kabul. Kabul radio says that the UN representative exchanged views on all matters pertaining to a political solution to the Afghanistan issue with the Kabul administration's leader, Najibullah.

UK Official Arrives For Drug Trafficking Talks

BK060855 Islamabad Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] The British Foreign and Commonwealth Office minister, Mr Timothy Eggar, arrived in Islamabad this morning on a 5-day visit to Pakistan. Talking to newsmen at the airport, the British minister said that the main purpose of his visit was to study the drug situation and promote understanding between UK and Pakistan on this issue. He lauded Pakistan's active cooperation to various international agencies to combat drug production and its trafficking.

Briefed on Narcotics Control

BK070305 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Timothy Eggar, the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office minister, attended a briefing on narcotics control measures in Islamabad yesterday. He was told that the production and trafficking of narcotics have been controlled to a large extent and that there has been a substantial reduction in the production of opium and other narcotics as a result of various measures taken in this regard. He was also informed of the present elected government's determination to abolish the narcotics trade through consistent efforts and with the cooperation of various national and international organizations.

Timothy Eggar appreciated the concrete measures taken by the Pakistani Government in this regard and gave assurances of his government's full cooperation in tackling this menace.

Delhi Notes Negotiations for Nuclear Submarines

BK060344 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Pakistan is reported to be negotiating with a Canadian company for hybrid conventional nuclear submarines. Besides this, Pakistani officials have been discussing with several shipyards in Western Europe for purchase of new and refurbished submarines. Islamabad has also concluded a deal with France for sophisticated surveillance radar system. The radars are to be installed along the border with India from Karachi in the Arabian Sea.

Karachi Clashes Continue; 5 Killed in Shooting

BK060258 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] The Karachi commissioner issued a press note last night stating that two illegal gatherings yesterday afternoon violated Section 144 [banning assembly of four or more persons] in their attempt to hold a public meeting at [words indistinct] in Sohrab Goth. The magistrates on duty informed these people that their gathering was illegal and that they should disperse immediately. However, they became violent and began to throw stones at the police, burn tires, and barricade the street. The illegal gathering was dispersed after tear gas was used. Another gathering closed the Karachi-Hyderabad highway and the police were fired on indiscriminately from alleys and the rooftops of several houses. The police used tear gas and, in some places, they had to resort to shooting to control the situation. A number of people were arrested, and the traffic flow on the highway was restored.

According to the press note, shortly after these tense gatherings, two groups fired at each other at Paposhnagar in the Central District. The police used tear gas and fired in the air to disperse these groups thus defusing the situation. As a result of these incidents, three persons who had been taken to Abbasi Shahid Hospital later succumbed to their injuries; six other wounded people were admitted to the hospital. At (Kavin) hospital, two persons succumbed to their injuries and four were admitted. Two of the injured are policemen who sustained injuries from firearms.

The press note said that later in the evening, there were sporadic incidents of arson in which two vehicles in the Liaqatabad police station and Nazimabad areas and one gasoline station were set on fire. The situation now is fully under control and the traffic flow in the affected areas has been restored. Huge numbers of police personnel have been deployed to patrol the areas, and raids have been carried out to apprehend the culprits. The administration has appealed to citizens to refrain from supporting those who resort to chaos and to cooperate with the administration in restoring peace and order.

Curfew Imposed in 3 Areas

BK061545 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Curfew has been imposed for an indefinite period beginning this afternoon in the Nazimabad, Gulbahar, and Liaqatabad areas of Karachi following stray incidents of violence there. Law enforcement personnel are patrolling in the affected area. The situation is under control.

Sind Chief Blames Drug Traders

BK070312 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] In a statement in Karachi last night, Sind Chief Minister Syed Ghous Ali Shah expressed his grief at the sudden and indiscriminate firing at innocent people, the damage caused to government and public property, and the violent demonstrations staged in the Central and the West Districts of Karachi city. He said it is obvious that narcotics traders are again involved; however, they must know that the people involved in the narcotics trade cannot escape the law. The chief minister offered his condolences over the deaths of innocent people and called upon the people to remain calm and peaceful and to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in maintaining peace and order. He urged the people to identify the troublemakers in their respective areas.

Shoot-on-Sight Orders Issued

BK070320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Pakistani authorities have imposed indefinite curfew in the trouble-torn areas of Karachi even as the death toll in the ethnic violence rose to 12. Three more persons died yesterday following clashes. The Army has been given shoot-at-sight orders to enforce the curfew. Troops patrolled sensitive areas of Liaqatabad, Nazimabad, Gulbahar, and Manghopir in Karachi.

Rival ethnic groups yesterday set ablaze 15 vehicles, a number of houses, shops, and bank buildings. A public transport bus carrying passengers was attacked with fire arms. Two passengers were stabbed to death while another was shot dead. Over 150 persons have been injured, some of them seriously, during the last 2 days of trouble.

Karachi Situation Under Control

BK071524 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1100 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] The situation in the curfew-bound areas of Karachi's Central and West Districts remained under control today and no untoward incidents were reported from any area.

Curfew Eased 8 Feb

BK080250 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] A press note issued by the commissioner of Karachi last night says that the situation in Karachi Division was normal yesterday. There was no report of any major incident from any of the four districts of the city. In the Central District, however, some miscreants attempted to loot two unoccupied houses in the Nazimabad area. Police and law enforcement agencies foiled their attempt and arrested several people at the scene. There were reports of two minor incidents of stone-throwing by small groups of people in curfew-free areas of the districts. Police arrested some persons caught in the act. Law enforcement agencies arrested 161 people for violating curfew restrictions; the necessary legal action will be taken against them.

Curfew has been relaxed in Pak Colony, (Site), and Mangopir police station areas in Karachi District West for 1 hour starting at 0600 this morning. Curfew will be further relaxed in these areas from 1600 to 1700 in the evening. Curfew has been relaxed in Liaqatabad, Nazimabad, and Gul Bahar police station areas in the Central District from 0700 to 0800 this morning and it will be relaxed again from 1700 to 1800 in the evening. Curfew has been relaxed in some areas under Shah Faisal Colony police station for 3 hours starting at 0600 this morning. Curfew will be relaxed in Nakhakhan Goth, Sadat Colony, the main bazaar, and Shah Faisal Colony Number-4 from 0800 to 0900 this morning.

Sri Lanka

Iranian Commander Confers With Navy Chief

LD061832 Tehran IRNA in English 1808 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 6, IRNA—Commander of the Sri Lankan Navy Friday met and conferred with commander and personnel of the two Iranian warships currently docked at Colombo port. Iranian Marines who are on an 8,000 mile round trip voyage in the Indian Ocean also held friendly sport matches with cadets of the Sri Lankan naval college.

The local media published reports on friendly relations between Iran and Sri Lanka on the occasion of the visit which entered its 4th day Friday and coincides with the independence day anniversary of this country.

Official Notes Success Against Separatists

BK071146 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Subversives in the southern province are on the run and hiding in safehouses outside their areas. Deputy inspector general [DIG] of police in the southern province, Richard Vijaysekhera, told LANKA PUWATH news agency that a number of area leaders have been apprehended. He said the public had got over their initial fear and the police was being inundated with letters by citizens giving information about activities of subversives. He also said that there were people who are willing to come forward to give evidence against them. The DIG of southern range said the security forces had dealt a series of crippling blows, particularly at (Welliata) and Angunakolapalessa on subversive elements.

19 Persons Killed in Nationwide Violence

BK051611 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 19 persons have been killed in violent incidents. At Cheddikulam in Vavuniya District, four PLOTE were killed last night when LTTE ambushed their van. Three LTTE men were also killed.

In Batticaloa, one LTTE man and a PKF [peacekeeping force] soldier were killed in a clash in Karadipovian. Four civilians were killed in the crossfire. Bodies of one Sri Lankan policeman and a clerk attached to Batticaloa police station were also recovered. The two were abducted yesterday by the LTTE. In other incidents, the PKF shot dead three LTTE men in Batticaloa District. One Sri Lankan noncommanding officer died in a sniper fire at the Sri Lanka Army camp at Pesalai in Mannar. The PKF recovered over 14,000 rounds of ammunition and a number of automatic weapons in Jaffna District.

Meanwhile, the sixth batch of 530 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees reached Talaimannar from Rameswaram. The Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr J.N. Dixit, visited Talaimannar, Jaffna, and Kilinochchi today.

WEEKEND Cites Indian Gunboat Diplomacy

BK070620 Colombo WEEKEND in English
24 Jan 88 p 7

[Rex de Silva article: "Nuclear 'Fallout' From India's Regional Quest"]

[Text] When it celebrates its Republic Day on Tuesday [26 January], India would have also entered the big league of regional superpowers.

By then its newly acquired Charlie 1 or Victor Class nuclear powered submarine would have sailed into the warm waters of the Indian Ocean from the cold of Russia's Vladivostok.

Though reputedly obsolete in superpower standards, the nuke-sub leased out by Moscow undeniably makes India the only Asian country besides China to have such military hardware.

With its arrival in India, the subcontinent invariably becomes a hardcore arena of nuclear arms race.

New Delhi has had visions of a great naval superiority in its own endeavours to reach the status of an Indian Ocean power.

It had always envisaged the control of the waters of this great ocean. For it is said by military strategists of yore that "whoever controls the Indian Ocean can dominate Asia, and in the next century the future of the world will be decided in these waters."

India's great hunt for a mighty navy began in the early seventies when the American fleet led by the "Enterprise" cruised into the Bay of Bengal during the Indo-Pakistan confrontation during the liberation of Bangladesh.

Ironically it is the United States that was first to raise guarded objections about India's new acquisition. Its quarrel was not with Delhi. But with its own archrival the Soviet Union.

On Friday last the U.S. State Department spokesman Charles Redman expressed certain misgivings saying that the leasing of the submarine by Moscow clearly introduces a new weapons technology into South Asia. He further clarified his government's policy saying that the U.S. always opposed transfer of nuclear reactors which also include nuclear propulsions to countries which are not members of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. It is reported that Washington followed up the issue with Moscow at a bilateral meeting in the U.S. capital early this week.

One can nevertheless surmise that the U.S. would hardly pursue a strong line on this issue for many reasons. Washington obviously is making friendly overtures to India, which it has come to recognise as a regional power having certain unwritten rights in displaying its dominance over the rest of the neighbouring countries. At a time when relations with the Soviet Union are at a friendly peak, one cannot expect serious polemics—for that matter over an old sub.

What seems rather strange is the continued and enhanced American military assistance to Pakistan. It remains an absolute thorn in Indo-U.S. relations. One particular reason that prevents American dissent over the Soviet lease to India is their own high level weapon induction to Pakistan.

Coinciding strangely with the lease of the submarine by India was an announcement by President Ronald Reagan that he was willing to sanction a 480 million dollar military package to Islamabad; a part of a massive 4.2 billion dollar deal which will include among other sophisticated military material the controversial AWACS.

Reagan's decision was quite surprising too as there were two statutory blocks from the Congress, viz. the Symington and Solarz amendments. These reportedly call for